The National

# Future Farmer

December-January, 1976 -77

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The National
# Future Farmer
Owned and Published by the Future Farmers of America

**Volume 25 Number 2**
**December-January, 1976-77**

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# A Word With The Editor

The election of Jimmy Carter to the office of President of the United States has an element of special interest to FFA members. Mr. Carter is the first person to be elected to the office who was once a member of the FFA. At present, he is an active dues-paying member of the FFA Alumni Association.

We congratulate Mr. Carter on his victory. The next issue will carry a detailed article about Jimmy Carter, the FFA member at Plains, Georgia.

While we congratulate Mr. Carter, we express thanks to President Ford for his service to the country. He took over the nation's highest office at a difficult time and the nation will always owe him a debt of gratitude for the stability he brought to it. During his time in office, he met frequently with FFA groups.

It seems unfortunate in a way that our political system is such that it requires someone to lose.

On behalf of all members, the FFA sent the following telegram to Mr. Carter the day following the election. We thought you would like to read it.

*Dear Mr. Carter*

*At the 1975 National FFA Convention you told 12,000 FFA members how you got your start in politics as secretary of the Plains, Georgia, Chapter of the Future Farmers of America Stop Last Night FFA members and leaders across the nation watched with great pride as you were elected to our nation's highest office Stop*

*As the first former FFA member ever to be elected President of the United States you have added yet another achievement to the long list of accomplishments by FFA members Stop Certainly your victory is a tribute to the principles of leadership, citizenship and cooperation for which the FFA organization stands Stop*

*The half million FFA members across the nation extend our congratulations and best wishes for a most successful term in office as President of the United States Stop*

*Sincerely*
*Members of the National Organization of*
*Future Farmers of America*

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## The Cover

One of the main entries to Farmfest '76 led past the FFA Barnyard. The barn was just part of a total FFA exhibit that was a highlight for many Farmfest goers. Over 12,000 FFA members registered at the FFA's headquarters during the week-long event which attracted nearly 800,000 people. For a full story, see page 28.

*Cover Photo by Gary Bye*

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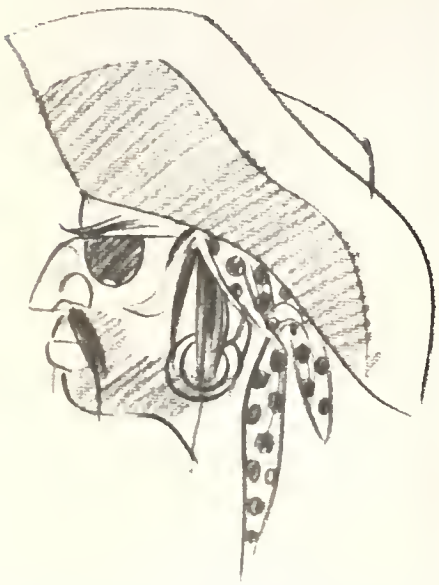

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# News in Brief

## The FFA

**TWO MILLION CORDUROY JACKETS SOLD**—On October 1, 1976, the two millionth FFA jacket was sold by the National FFA Supply Service. The jacket was sold to Johnny Bowman, a Greenhand from the Aurora, Missouri, FFA Chapter. The jacket will be placed in the National FFA Archives along with the first millionth jacket which was sold in 1964.

**HIGHEST AWARD GOES TO NATIONAL LEADER**—Mr. Wm. Paul Gray, who served as FFA's National Executive Secretary for nearly 20 years before retiring after this year's National FFA Convention, was presented the Distinguished Service award at the recent National Safety Council's annual meeting in Chicago. The award, the highest given by the NSC, was presented by Scott McKain, former National FFA Officer and chairman of the Youth Safety Conference. Mr. Gray has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Safety Council and participated in 20 National Youth Safety Congress meetings. From left, Harold E. Heldreth, manager of Youth Activities Department, National Safety Council, Wm. Paul Gray and Scott McKain.

**TAGGART TAPPED BY FOUNDATION**—Jesse Taggart of Lansing, Michigan, has accepted the position of Assistant Executive Director of the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee headquartered in Madison, Wisconsin. He assumed his new position on November 1, after serving as regional representative for the Michigan Farm Bureau for the past four years. Taggart replaces Dennis Sargent who accepted a position as coordinator for alumni relations and development at The Ohio State University, his alma mater.

**McDOWELL REAPPOINTED BY PRESIDENT**—Donald McDowell, executive director of the FFA Foundation, was recently reappointed by President Ford to serve as a member of the National Advisory Council on Vocational Education. He will be serving his third three-year term.

**FOUNDATION BREAKS BICENTENNIAL GOAL**—The goal of $776,000 for 1976 set by the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee was met and broken as of October 18. A total of $825,684 was received from sponsors for FFA incentive awards in 1976. The Foundation fund makes possible awards for FFA members at national, state and local levels.

**ALL TIME HIGH NOTED IN FFA PROGRAM PARTICIPATION**—FFA award program participation set records during the past year. The Building Our American Communities program had 1,059 participants in 1976 compared to 845 in 1975. Participation in the Safety awards program reached a high with 541 participants rated superior in 1976 compared to 464 participants in 1975.

**ACT NOW ON WORK EXPERIENCE ABROAD APPLICATIONS**—The due date for Work Experience Abroad applications has been moved up to March 1 to give more time for handling the paperwork involved in making necessary arrangements. Applications may be obtained from your local FFA advisor or by checking your chapter's Chapter Guide to FFA Activities. WEA is an FFA program designed to give FFA members the opportunity to learn about foreign agriculture by living and working on farms in other countries.

# An old plug can cost you more than a new plug.

Of course you're trying to save money. But if you think using a set of spark plugs for 20,000 to 25,000 miles will help make you rich . . . well, read on.

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This notice is limited to Wildcat brand 22 rim fire cartridges with the LF62PY code number.

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# Looking Ahead

## Agriculture

**DON'T VACCINATE FOR HOG CHOLERA**—Vaccination against hog cholera is no longer necessary and carries tremendous risk, according to the Livestock Conservation Institute. Any stocks of cholera vaccine still on hand are far out of date and useless in protecting hogs. By using old stocks of vaccine you are increasing a thousandfold your pigs' chances of getting the disease. Old vaccine contains the hog cholera virus and when injected into pigs can gradually regain its ability to cause the disease. Destroy any vaccines still on hand. Ideally it should be turned over to a veterinarian for destruction.

**OCEAN-THERMAL PLANTS COULD PRODUCE AMMONIA**—Up to 40 percent of the ammonia required for fertilizer for United States food production could be manufactured aboard sea-going liner-sized ocean thermal conversion plants according to a report by The Johns Hopkins University prepared for the U.S. Maritime Administration. Twenty-one sea-going plants could be operating within a decade says the report thereby relieving the drain on natural gas which is the feedstock in the conventional manufacture of ammonia. The ships would manufacture ammonia by the skillful utilization of cold and warm water temperatures and heat exchangers.

**SCIENTISTS TO STUDY SEDIMENT**—Sediment dredged from rivers and lakes may someday be used to improve crop production if studies by the University of Minnesota and the USDA show positive results. Under a cooperative research agreement lasting 30 months samples will be taken from ten dredging sites in the Midwest and East. Plant growth studies will be made in greenhouses to test the sediment. Results should indicate the value of using sediment to improve the soil and provide a base of data for the development of guidelines concerning application.

**FARM POPULATION CONTINUES DECLINE**—The U.S. farm population in 1975 declined 400,000 persons to about 8.9 million, reports the USDA and the Census Bureau. The agencies say the farm population decline showed a yearly average of 1.8 percent decline since 1970 compared to the 4.8 percent rate of decline from 1960 to 1970. From 1970 to 1975, the nation's farm population shrank 8.7 percent, showing a 16.4 percent loss in the South, 5.2 percent in the Central North, 8.3 percent decline in the Northeast. The only increase was in the West, where the farm population grew 5.1 percent.

**GROW YOUR OWN**—This year an estimated 48 percent of American households planted gardens, up from 46 percent the year before, and 43 percent in 1974. This, say analysts with the USDA's Economic Research Service, suggests that the interest in home fruit and vegetable gardening, generated three to four years ago by rapidly escalating food prices, may be here to stay and not just a short-lived phenomenon.

**FARMLAND VALUES SOAR**—Want to buy farmland? Be prepared to pay an extra 14 percent to meet rising land costs. In 1975 the acreage value of an acre of farmland climbed almost $50 to $403. Over the last five years land values nationwide have doubled. Economists look for a slowdown in rising land values projected at 8 to 10 percent in the year ending February, 1977. The Corn Belt and Northern Plains states led the advance in soaring land costs.

**FOR THE RECORD**—The world sheep shearing title was won this year by Geoffry Phillips, a 20-year-old farmer from Brecon, Wales, who sheared 696 sheep in nine hours. Phillips beat the world record of 609 sheep set only ten days earlier by a neighbor Brian Davies. The previous record of 565 lambs was established in New Zealand in 1971.

Geoffry Phillips

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# From the Mailbag

## Readers Report

**Liverpool, West Virginia**

I read in your Future Farmer magazine about the decline in the number of sheep. You name many things you think are the cause for this decline.

We have a daughter who is in FFA. You say that it is a great opportunity for young people to go into raising sheep. If they want to lose money every year, this is the best way to do it.

Now let me explain. For several years we tried to raise sheep. We loved every minute of it and it was profitable too. Except, every year we lost all the profits because of dogs getting into the sheep. Ones they didn't kill or hurt did not do too well so that we would have to sell them at a loss.

West Virginia is an ideal place to raise sheep but until some strict dog laws are enforced, sheep are losers. As it stands now, dogs have more protection than people. You have to have a picture of dogs doing the killing and you aren't allowed to do harm to a dog without a heavy fine or jail term.

We have no dog catcher and our law officers will not come out if called. Unless you kill a dog and then they are after you, not the dog.

*Mrs. Clair Allen*

P.S. I may sound like a dog hater. Just the opposite, I like dogs very much.

**Your letter confirms what other sheep producers have told us. Around centers of population, dogs are the worst enemy of sheep.—Ed.**

**Floral City, Florida**

Several of the FFA Work Experience Abroad program participants have just returned from a summer abroad and we are anxious to share our experience with other FFA members. We had, or now have, students placed on farms or agriculturally related businesses all over Europe, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Most of us spent the summer working harder than we ever had before and earning less, but you couldn't find anyone who regretted going. We learned a great deal about cultures and people that are foreign to us, but we agreed that our primary learning experience was about ourselves.

While at our mid-point conference we discussed the problem of spreading the good news of the WEA program and came up with a few possibilities. We would ask the magazine to allow the international program of the FFA one or two pages in the magazine annually to allow participants to report on the current year's program.

This would not only let past participants know how the program is progressing, but it will also give interested newcomers a better insight into what the program actually consists of. We suggest that the article would consist of pictures and stories submitted by the participants each year and be included in the issue with the report of the National Convention or the issue immediately following.

*Gini Simpson, WEA'er*

**Your suggestion to allow the international program department to report on the current year's program is certainly a good one. No doubt you and your fellow exchangees would have many interesting stories to relate.**

**Fordsville, Kentucky**

I would like to compliment you on the article on rodeo school in the August-September issue. I really liked and enjoyed it.

*Karen Brown*

**Tuscon, Arizona**

I was a member and now an alumni member of the Suffield Regional Chapter of the Suffield, Connecticut, FFA.

In September of 1971, my vo-ag instructor and chapter president encouraged me to join and participate in FFA. I did enthusiastically. From that day on a new person arose from a shy out-of-town student in a strange high school.

I am proud to be an FFA alumnus.

*Denise A. Mortensen*

**New Holstein, Wisconsin**

We are writing to say how much we enjoyed your article on the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center.

With the National Land contest held in Oklahoma City and being one of Wisconsin's representatives to the contest, we had the opportunity to tour the Center.

We recommend anyone in the area to take time to see this great display of America's heritage.

*Dave Turba, Reporter*

**Roanoke, Texas**

I am very sorry about being late in returning the survey questionnaire. I have moved to Roanoke, just outside of Grapevine on the Circle T Ranch. This is where I have worked for the past three years.

FFA has done a lot for me in school and ag co-op has made a better man out of me.

I started out as a regular ranch hand moving cows, repairing fence, and feeding and caring for the horses. Now I have moved up to one of the best hands on the ranch in breaking and training thoroughbred race horses.

I am very thankful to my agriculture teachers at Grapevine High, Mr. Bill McCluer and Mr. Jim Reeves. Both of these men taught and showed me responsibility and right from wrong.

I am also very grateful to Mr. Leonard Marshall, the ranch manager I work for. I would say he is the smartest man I ever met. I have learned to care for horses, farm equipment and compromise with others.

I owe it all to the Future Farmers of America.

*Bobby O'Neal*

# They Call Him "Mr. FFA"

**"PAUL GRAY is a unique person"—is how a friend described him recently. One meaning of unique is unequaled. And that would be an apt description of the man who is known throughout the United States and in many foreign countries as Wm. Paul Gray.**

**After a professional career that spans over 40 years, nineteen and a half of it as national executive secretary of the FFA, Mr. Gray will retire on December 16, 1976, from the U.S. Office of Education, Washington, D.C.**

Mr. Gray was born August 26, 1911, on a farm near Marston, Missouri. In 1918, the family moved to Colorado. He was graduated from Colorado State University in 1936, with a major in Animal Husbandry and a minor in Agricultural Education. He also has a Masters Degree from Colorado State and has done graduate work at Michigan State University.

His first job teaching vocational agriculture was at Hillside, Wyoming, during the 1936-37 school term. Then he moved to Saguache, Colorado, where he taught from 1937-41, and at Eaton, Colorado, from 1941-42.

*"As a member of the supervisory staff in Colorado, I visited Paul Gray several times when he was the agriculture teacher at Saguache. He was just one of the boys. He did a lot of hunting and fishing in those days and he always had some of the boys with him. But, oh, they respected him. He did some coaching of athletics so they all called him 'coach.' One thing he did, I remember, he had an old glider and he would tie it to a half ton pickup truck and get one of the boys in it and they would take off. That is how they got it up in the air.*

*As a teacher he was very innovative, always getting something started. He would get families to try purebred livestock, certified seed, and the like. If a job needed to be done, Paul was the kind that would get it done. Time meant nothing to him. And he was accepted as one of the family wherever he went."*

ELMER JOHNSON, U. S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION, RETIRED, ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

In 1941, Mr. Gray married the former Miss Edna May Glover of Center, Colorado. They now live in Arlington, Virginia, but plan to move to their cottage near the Patuxent River in Maryland after retirement.

Then came World War II. During the early part of the war, Mr. Gray served as flight instructor training Army glider pilots and later served as an airline pilot instructor for United Airlines.

From 1944 to 1946, he trained Marine Engineers for the U.S. Army Transportation Corps. Much of this time was spent at sea in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of war. In 1946 he returned to Eaton and resumed teaching vocational agriculture.

*"What I remember most about having Paul Gray as my vo-ag teacher is that he was a very hard worker and always willing to help students. I would have to say that outside of my parents, Paul Gray had more influence on my life than any other individual."*

DR. B. HAROLD ANDERSON, HEAD DEPARTMENT OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, FORT COLLINS.

While Mr. Gray was teaching at Eaton from 1946-52, his FFA chapter was one of the outstanding chapters in the nation winning a Silver Emblem once, and Gold Emblem twice in the National Chapter Contest. In 1966, the vocational agriculture building at Eaton was named the Wm. Paul Gray vocational agriculture building.

*"Even though Mr. Gray had been gone from Eaton for sometime, he maintained an interest in his former students and the FFA Chapter. He was always coming back to visit the school. The building was dedicated as a living commemoration to Paul in recognition of his achievement, as national executive secretary and at Eaton."*

DR. DICK WELTON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CARBONDALE AND FFA ADVISOR AT EATON IN 1966.

Mr. Gray moved to Denver in January, 1952 to work as assistant state supervisor of Agricultural Education. From Denver he went to Colorado State University, where he was an assistant professor of agricultural education. In June, 1957, Mr. Gray was appointed National Executive Secretary.

For many years, Mr. Gray had the responsibility of training and coordinating the itineraries of the National FFA Officers.

*"The 'coach,' as many knew him, was unvarying in his love and dedication for the FFA. His influence on our personal lives as a near second father will remain for our lifetime as past officers."*

GREG BAMFORD, NATIONAL FFA PRESIDENT 1967-68 HAXTUN, COLORADO

*"In reflecting on Mr. Gray's contribution to FFA, I certainly think of his dedication, his long hours of work and his good understanding of the FFA program and its relationship to vocational agriculture."*

H. N. HUNSICKER, NATIONAL FFA ADVISOR AND PROGRAM OFFICER, U. S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

*"Paul's a great guy with whom to work, he knows what he wants, he goodnaturedly works around until he gets it. He's a kindly soul and has a terrific interest in young people."*

O. W. RANDOLPH, MANAGER PUBLIC RELATIONS, MOORMAN MFG. CO., QUINCY, ILLINOIS

Mr. Gray has devoted considerable time and effort to international education. He has worked with the Future Farmers of Japan, the Philippines, Thailand and Colombia in making a beginning or progress in their respective countries to serve the needs of students and agriculture.

*"Paul Gray is known in numerous countries of the world for his effective representation of FFA and America in conferences, workshops and the presentation of FFA officers in their visitations to remote villages, agricultural schools and ministries of education where people still ask: when can Paul Gray and FFA officers return to our country?"*

JAMES E. WOODHULL, AID/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BUREAU, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

During the 1976 National FFA Convention, in special ceremonies at the convention and around Kansas City, the FFA and his many friends said thanks to Mr. Gray for his service to the FFA. They spoke not only for the 500,385 members in FFA today but also for the millions that have passed through the FFA ranks in the last 20 years.

# NEW NATIONAL OFFICERS

Top Left: James Bode, National President, Oklahoma
Top Center, Left: Bruce Maloch, National Secretary, Arkansas
Top Center, Right: Sam Brownback, Central Region Vice President, Kansas
Top Right: Rick McDaniel, Eastern Region Vice President, Ohio
Bottom Center, Right: Danny Schiffer, Southern Region Vice President, Florida
Bottom Right: Julie Smiley, Western Region Vice President, Washington

**National FFA President**

**James Bode,** 20, of Geary, Oklahoma, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Bode.

James' leadership experience includes being secretary and president of both his local chapter and the Oklahoma FFA Association.

As a vocational agriculture student under instructors Wayne Dimmick and Dennis Laubach, James' program was in agribusiness. He worked over 1,000 hours as an employee of Geary Mill and Elevator and has a small cow/calf operation of 17 cows and 18 yearlings.

At the time of his election James was a student at Oklahoma State University majoring in Agricultural Economics and Accounting.

**National FFA Secretary**

**Bruce Maloch,** a 19-year-old diversified livestock farmer from Emerson, Arkansas, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elwin Maloch. Bruce has a beef cattle herd which began with half interest in one crossbred heifer and has grown to 35 head. As a Greenhand, Bruce purchased three gilts and his swine herd grew to 12 sows and one purebred boar.

Bruce served two years as president of his local chapter under Joe Ward, chapter advisor, and served as Arkansas FFA President. Bruce was the Arkansas Star Farmer in 1974.

While serving as a National FFA Officer, Bruce will be on leave from Southern Arkansas University where he is a pre-vet major.

**Central Region Vice President**

**Sam Brownback,** a 20-year-old crop and livestock producer from Parker, Kansas, is involved in an 800 acre beef, pork, and crop production operation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. Robert Brownback. Sam built up his crop production program and operated a farrow-to-finish swine operation during high school, under the direction of vocational agriculture instructors Gary Harvey and Marvin Creager.

Sam served as president of the Kansas FFA Association after two terms as Prairie View chapter secretary, vice president and president.

Brownback was a National Honor Society Scholarship recipient and also was active in sports, serving as captain of the football team. Now a Junior in Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University, Sam works for a local radio station. He also served as Kansas FFA Alumni Council chairman and will take a year's leave of absence from college.

**Eastern Region Vice President**

**Rick McDaniel,** 20, of Nevada, Ohio, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dale McDaniel. His FFA advisor at Bucyrus, Ohio, is James Neff.

Rick started his vocational agriculture farming program with five beef steers, 18 market pigs and 24 acres of field crops. He then expanded his program toward agribusiness. Employed by the Pillsbury Company as a grain handler he has advanced to the position of grain merchandiser—one of the youngest men in this position in the history of the company.

Rick was elected president of the Ohio FFA Association.

Now a student at The Ohio State University he is majoring in agricultural economics. After his year of service, Rick plans to pursue a career in grain merchandising.

**Southern Region Vice President**

**Danny Schiffer,** a 19-year-old agricultural mechanic from Orlando, Florida, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Schiffer. Danny started his farming program with a small truck farm and a poultry enterprise.

More recently Danny's main agriculture interest has been in the field of agricultural mechanics where he works closely with his father in their partnership.

In the FFA Danny was president of his chapter and served under chapter advisor H. F. Dietrick at Colonial High. Danny served the Florida FFA Association as secretary in 1974-75 and was the State Home Improvement Award winner in 1973.

A member of the Florida Tech University debate team for two years, Schiffer has also been involved in student government at the University.

**Western Region Vice President**

**Julie Smiley,** 19, from Mount Vernon, Washington, is the first girl ever elected to a national office in the FFA.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Smiley, Julie served as president of the Washington FFA Association in 1975-76 and won the State FFA Public Speaking Contest in 1973.

Julie began her agribusiness program by roguing spinach and picking bulbs for a local seed company. She raised five market steers and was employed by an iris and gladiolus company grading, sorting, counting and preparing orders.

A member of the National Honor Society for four years, Julie placed second in a national speaking contest for the Baptist General Conference and in 1974 received the state FFA citizenship award.

Prior to election, Julie attended Seattle Pacific College. At Mount Vernon, her vocational agriculture teachers were Howard Howell and Randy Brown.

Experience.
"When you go into the Army, you go into this big group of people with all kinds of abilities. Some guys can do things a lot better than you, some can't, and you all want recognition. Well, the only way you get that is to try harder. You've got to accept that as the basic experience of the Army. Trying harder. To learn enough to handle brand-new situations. To grow enough to like and understand people with one thing in common: they're trying too."
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# FFA Hosts World Conference

More than 200 students and adult leaders from 27 countries joined FFA members from across the nation in Kansas City, Missouri, to participate in the First World Conference in Agricultural Education for Youth and Adult Leaders. The International Conference, sponsored through the National FFA Foundation, Inc., by Massey-Ferguson Inc. of Des Moines, Iowa, was hosted by FFA and held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention.

Climaxing the final session of the five-day conference, regional representatives from Asia, Eastern Europe, North America, South America, and Western Europe recommended that future conferences be held periodically to foster the mutual exchange of information and assistance in agricultural education, production, marketing, and organization for leadership.

Countries represented at the conference were Austria, Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Liberia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan-Republic of China, United States of America, Venezuela, Wales, and West Germany.

Educational sessions were devoted to such themes as "The World Food Situation and Prospects For Beginning Farmers," "Systems of Agricultural Education," "New Trends in Agricultural Education," "National Rural Youth Organizations" and "Sharing Ideas With Others."

Five FFA members represented the United States. They were: Darrell Bohnhoff, North Dakota; William Foster, Rhode Island; Denny Grabill, Michigan; Gary Johnson, Wisconsin, and Scott Thompson, South Dakota. All were selected from applications sent in and recommended by State FFA Associations.

Speaking at the conference's opening session, Dr. Robert Spitzer, Coordinator of the U.S. Food For Peace Program, urged the delegates to adjust their sights and see agriculture, not as a local or even a national matter, but as a matter of worldwide interest.

"For the first time in world history," he declared, "there is the technology necessary to eliminate hunger. Yet, 500 million people are either malnourished or outright hungry. There can be no true peace when that many are hungry."

Spitzer appealed to the conference participants to provide the leadership needed. "You can serve the cause of this new world agriculture right on the farm making intelligent decisions about what to grow and in which quantity as it relates to the total world problem."

According to Lennie Gamage, FFA Manager of International Programs, the objective of the conference was to provide agricultural education training and experiences to improve education in agriculture in all participating countries. In addition to providing a forum to share knowledge and experiences, the conference offered the opportunity for development of closer relationships between FFA members in the U.S. and students in similar programs in other countries.

The original idea of an international conference dates back to the 1970 National FFA Convention when delegates asked that FFA explore the possibility of convening an international conference to give young people from other nations an opportunity to discuss common problems and share ideas for improving agricultural education. Sponsorship of the program by Massey-Ferguson Inc. made the program possible and at the 1975 National FFA Convention representatives from nine countries met to serve as a planning committee for this year's conference.

Participants at the conference also competed in the First International Agricultural Olympics, matching their skills in crops and soils judging, livestock, dairy and poultry judging, tractor operation and maintenance, and such agricultural mechanics areas as carpentry, cement work, welding and small engine trouble shooting.

"The object of the Ag Olympics was not to win for winning's sake, but to compete, to learn, to experience and to develop lasting friendships," explained Gamage.

Among top winners was William Foster, Ashaway, Rhode Island, who placed first in swine judging, first in poultry judging, first in fruits, second in vegetables, and tied for second in small engine trouble shooting with six others.

Below, the First World Conference in Agricultural Education brought together representatives from twenty-seven different nations of the world.

Below left, representatives from the different countries shared their customs and formed lasting friendships. Below, unusual dress was often in evidence during the agri-olympics.

# A Christmas gift to be given and given and given. A Winchester.

The giving of a Winchester for Christmas has been a tradition in American homes since the days of the Old West. Generation after generation has received a Winchester, whether it be new or one that has been handed down from father to son. Start the Winchester tradition in your family this Christmas.

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**The Model 37A.** The single barrel shotgun that's perfect for the budget minded. Offering Winchester durability and quality at a price you wouldn't expect. Available in 12, 16, 20, 28 gauge and 410 bore. Youth Model comes with a shorter barrel, and shorter stock, fitted with recoil pad, in either 20 gauge or 410 bore.

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# NATIONAL CONVENTION

Nearly 20,000 FFA members and their adult guests participated in the 49th National FFA Convention in the Kansas City, Missouri, Municipal Auditorium. Concurrently 200 students and adult leaders from 27 countries participated in the first World Conference in Agricultural Education and International Agricultural Olympics.

National FFA President Bobby Tucker called the convention to order on Wednesday, November 10. An audiovisual presentation on the new FFA theme "FFA —Agriculture's NEW Generation" set the stage for the three-day convention.

## THE SESSIONS

One of the first items of business for the 121 student delegates was the approval of a state charter for the Alaska FFA Association.

In a special memorial tribute to Congressman Jerry Litton and his family, National Officers who served with Jerry in 1956-57 paid tribute to the Congressman for his service to the FFA, agriculture and the nation. The memorial ceremony included a presentation to Jerry's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Litton, of a portrait of Congressman Litton which will be displayed in a new wing of the Agricultural Hall of Fame to be dedicated in Jerry's name.

Astronaut Charles Duke spoke to FFA members about the challenges ahead for them in an ever more technological world. He illustrated his talk with a film of his now famous walk on the moon.

Wednesday morning more than 500 FFA chapters were given Celebrate '76 award certificates for participation in activities to celebrate the nation's Bicentennial. Wednesday evening's National FFA Public Speaking Contest was held before a standing-room-only crowd.

The National FFA Supply Service celebrated another milestone with the production and sale of the two-millionth familiar blue corduroy FFA jacket to Johnny Bowman of Aurora, Missouri. Johnny, in turn, donated his jacket to the National FFA Archives.

Later in the evening FFA members listened intently as Paul Anderson, "The World's Strongest Man," told them not to be afraid to be an individual. Then he lifted over 1,000 pounds—eight big FFA'ers from the audience—who were sitting on a specially built table.

Five dedicated leaders of the FFA were presented VIP Citations. They were: Clarence Bundy of Iowa; Ralph Canada of Colorado; William Elam of Illinois; Tomatsu Horii of Hawaii; and Robert Price of Oklahoma. Distinguished Service Citations were presented to the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Farmers Union and the National FFA Alumni Association in recognition of their service to the organization.

At the Thursday morning session, the National BOAC Citation was presented to the Berrien FFA Chapter of Nashville, Georgia. The 200-member chapter carried out a year-long effort to restore an historic "old jail," converting the building to a museum and community meeting place.

Then FFA members listened as Jon Wefald, Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture, prodded them to take a more aggressive role in promoting agriculture.

At the Thursday afternoon session, the Honorary American Farmer Degree ceremony conferred that degree upon 172 men and women. It was followed by remarks from Fred McClure, past national FFA secretary and current student body president at Texas A & M.

The American Farmer Degree, highest degree of membership in FFA, was presented to 748 deserving members this year. It was the largest number of members ever to receive the degree in one year. From this select group, judges named the Star Farmer of America and the Star Agribusinessman of America.

A capacity crowd again jammed the auditorium for Thursday evening's presentation of National Proficiency Awards to members who demonstrated exceptional proficiency in 19 areas of agricultural production and agribusiness. Winners were selected from a field of four regional candidates for each of the award areas by panels of judges representing education, business and industry. The final judging occurred there in Kansas City.

National FFA Foundation sponsors were also recognized for their support of FFA. The 1976 Sponsoring Committee Chairman, Robert Engle, Vice President and General Manager of Avco New Idea Farm Equipment Division, announced that 1976 was a record year for the Foundation which raised over $825,000 for FFA incentive award programs.

Dr. David Phillipson, (DVM), Vice President and General Manager of the Agricultural Division of The Upjohn Company, was introduced as the 1977 Sponsoring Committee Chairman.

The nation's most active chapters were presented the National FFA Chapter Award in recognition of their participation in a well-rounded program of activities. Also 103 chapters were recognized in the National Chapter Safety Award program sponsored jointly by the Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute and Dow Chemical, U.S.A. through the National FFA Foundation.

Donald McDowell, executive director of the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee and a member of the National Advisory Council on Vocational Education addressed the Friday morning session of the convention. He told the FFA members and their international guests who had joined them for that session how important it was to participate in international activities. He gave several examples of ways chapters can be involved in international programs.

The new National Officers were elected unanimously at the Friday morning session.

At the closing session of the convention Friday evening, the organization paid special tribute to National FFA Executive Secretary Wm. Paul Gray who announced his plans to retire after 19½ years of service to the FFA.

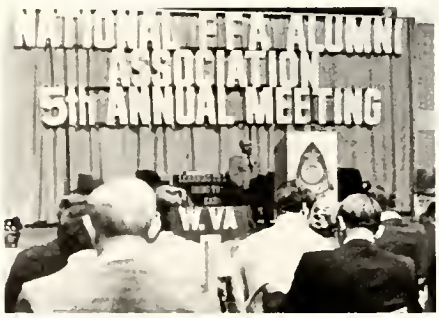
The convention concluded with the retirement recognition of the 1976 National Officers for their year of service to FFA. Special entertainment by Firestone Tire & Rubber Company followed the closing session of the 49th National FFA Convention.

## ALUMNI

The National FFA Alumni Association held its fifth annual meeting at the new H. Roe Bartle Hall next to the Auditorium where FFA meets in Kansas City. Over 600 persons attended the meeting of the 12,500 member Alumni organization which convened for two half-day sessions on Thursday and Friday mornings. The FFA Alumni Outstanding Achievement Awards were presented to two FFA Alumni members who have served agriculture and the FFA for many years. They were William Paul Gray, national FFA executive secretary; and Donald N. McDowell, executive director of the National FFA Foundation Sponsoring Committee.

Over 170 Legion of Merit Citations were presented to individuals for active leadership in building the FFA Alumni Association. The Evansville, Wisconsin, FFA Alumni Affiliate was presented the first Outstanding Affiliate Award in recognition of the support Evansville FFA Alumni have given FFA and vocational agriculture in their community

The new FFA Alumni Chairman is David C. Thomas of Columbia, Missouri. He replaces Richard Waybright of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, who served as chairman this past year.




## CONTESTS

Months of training and hard work were put to the test by FFA members competing in this year's national convention. Eight contests of agricultural skill and knowledge involved 962 FFA members on 307 teams. These individuals represented their states where they had won in chapter, district, and state competition.

Mark H. Sanborn of East Orwell, Ohio, was named National FFA Public Speaking winner with his speech titled, "What It Takes To Be An American Farmer." Noting that the general public is acutely aware of its dependence on food and its economic role in their lives, Mark told the capacity crowd that the same public seems to know little about the man who produces it.

New for 1976 was the Farm Business Management Contest. This contest required participants to apply principles of agricultural economics, business management, and accounting to the solution of theoretical farm management problems involving the use of land, labor and capital.

In addition to the Farm Business Management Contest, FFA members competed in agricultural mechanics, dairy cattle judging, milk quality and dairy foods evaluation, poultry judging, livestock judging, horticulture and meat evaluation and identification. A complete list of contest winners is listed on page 20.

## STARS

Star Farmer of America and Star Agribusinessman of America, FFA's top awards, were presented to Timothy Amdahl of Flandreau, South Dakota, and Tony Pollard of Hartford, Alabama.

The 21-year-old Amdahl is a cattle breeder with his sights set on producing bulls and heifers for registered breeders and the show ring. He currently rents 450 acres on which he raises alfalfa hay and pastures his Angus herd of over 150 head.

Pollard is a 22-year-old agribusinessman who has established a successful grist mill where he has upgraded efficiency by designing his own automatic meal-handling system. He has also attempted to improve and enlarge a hog breeding operation in which he has a part interest.

Both were presented a $1,000 cash award in a pageant at the convention. They shared the spotlight with six other regional stars after the audience had viewed the premiere showing of a special "Stars" film.

## ALASKA

FFA added its 51st state association at this year's national convention. Twenty-two young Alaskans, the majority of them away from their villages for the first time attended the convention to accept their state charter.

The chartering ceremony was the first since 1950 when Rhode Island met the minimum requirements to be recognized as an official state association. Among those requirements are the need for over 125 active members and four chapter associations. Alaska now has 129 members in eight FFA chapters.

The young Alaskans actually spent two weeks in the continental United States with a one week visit to Oregon preceding their official journey to the national convention.

Most of the Alaskan students are from the western part of the state and are learning about agriculture through use of greenhouse programs. The typical growing season in that part of the country is less than three months. Despite the limitations for crop farming, vegetables grow to tremendous size due to the continuous sunshine at that latitude. As an example of such produce the students brought with them an eighty-pound cabbage. At home many of the students raise dogs which provide the power for their dog sleds, still a major form of transportation.

Alaska's delegates and state FFA advisor joined FFA President Tucker on the stage.

Most of the students who made the trip were from Iliamna, a village of only 150 people. They raised nearly $6800 for transportation, hotels and food. The expenses were partially covered by the International Harvester Company's Agricultural Equipment Division which donated $500 towards the travel costs.

Although each of the members paid their own dues, the state FFA association of North Dakota has agreed to reimburse the dues payments to encourage growth of the new state association and ease the financial burden on the new members. The North Dakotans also plan to assist the Alaskan vo-ag teachers by sending teaching materials to them.

Representatives of the Alaskan delegation accepted their charter from National President Bobby Tucker and then presented the national organization with a bearskin rug.

## ENTERTAINMENT

Conventions might get pretty dull without music and entertainment to liven them up.

So the traditions of having the National FFA Band and the National FFA Chorus were continued. The 122-member band was selected from 500 FFA'ers who applied to Roger Heath, director and also director of Virginia Tech Bands.

The 100-voice chorus was selected from 300 FFA applicants by the director Marvin Myers, retired Purdue staff member.

Both the chorus and the band assembled for the first time on Sunday before the convention and began practicing and forming into total musical groups. They entertained throughout the convention and each gave a special concert.

Beside the big band and chorus, convention delegates were entertained by a variety of special talent numbers. This program was coordinated by Don Erickson, North Dakota State FFA Advisor.

Acts varied from string bands, country singers and pianists to a concertina band, tap dancers, and a jazz band. In addition to their entertainment at the convention the FFA talent corps represented FFA at over 40 civic and local events in and around Kansas City.

After a vesper service on Tuesday, the Ararat Shrine Temple and U. S. Navy "Country Current" band provided an evening's entertainment for early arrivals in Kansas City.

Of course, the American Royal Show and Rodeo was getting underway during FFA convention week and Friday afternoon was FFA Day at the Royal. Tanya Tucker was guest star in the special show for FFA'ers. Jody Martz, member of the Lanark, Illinois, chapter, showed the Grand Champion Steer at the Royal. Her Simmental and Angus cross was named Jimmy C. in honor of the president-elect.

Whenever chapter delegates had time, they could also go on educational tours of major industries in Kansas City.

## CAREER SHOW

Exhibits depicting career opportunities in agriculture were on display in an FFA Agriculture Career Show held in conjunction with the National Convention.

Thousands of FFA members toured the display area before the convention began and between sessions. This year 44 trade associations, professional societies, educational institutions and government agencies exhibited at the show.

Besides preparing an exhibit to graphically depict jobs related to their organizations, each exhibitor provided personnel to answer questions and furnished handout information relating to the career they represented.

At designated times throughout the career show, special demonstrations and audiovisual presentations were provided in an adjacent theater.

In addition to career exhibits, members could tour the Hall Of States to see exhibits from state FFA associations. Minnesota showed their weather gauge pro-

gram. Indiana had the covered wagon which had traveled to Kansas City in the previous 22 days. Plus a large exhibit was put up by the new Alaska Association. They brought an 80-pound cabbage, skins and bones from native animals, a dog sled and a miniature Eskimo village. FFA members from both Alaska and North Dakota manned the Alaskan booth to answer questions relating to agriculture in the 49th state. Many other state FFA associations exhibited displays promoting and explaining agriculture and the FFA in their area of the country.

Also segments of the National Organization exhibited. Many members and advisors seemed to enjoy *The National FUTURE FARMER* exhibit featuring every cover from past editions of the magazine dating back to 1952 when the magazine originated. The FFA Supply Service sales booth also attracted large crowds wishing to purchase FFA items or look over the new items being offered. Other National Organization booths were the Farmfest booth and the Work Experience Abroad Exhibit which gave interested FFA members a chance to talk with past participants of that FFA program.

# Winners

National winners in bold type.

| Name of Award | Central Region | Eastern Region | Southern Region | Western Region | Sponsor |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Stars** | | | | | |
| Star American Farmer | **Timothy H. Amdahl**<br>Flandreau, South Dakota<br>Flandreau FFA Chapter | Dwight S. Williams<br>Marion, Ohio<br>Elgin FFA Chapter | Roger A. Meadows<br>Dyersburg, Tennessee<br>Dyersburg FFA Chapter | Douglas J. Bromiley<br>East Wenatchee, WA<br>Eastmont FFA Chapter | National FFA Foundation General Fund |
| Star Agribusinessman | Dennis W. Weis<br>Green Bay, Wisconsin<br>Green Bay East FFA | Lynn R. Groff<br>New Holland, Pennsylvania<br>Grassland FFA Chapter | **Tony V. Pollard**<br>Hartford, Alabama<br>Hartford FFA Chapter | Wade Christensen<br>Thomas, Oklahoma<br>Thomas FFA Chapter | National FFA Foundation General Fund |
| **Public Speaking** | | | | | |
| Public Speaking | Marlene Cordes<br>Madison, Wisconsin<br>Monroe FFA | **Mark H. Sanborn**<br>Orwell, Ohio<br>Grand Valley FFA | Don Lawson<br>Ten Mile, Tennessee | Bryan Buchanan<br>Garland, Utah | National FFA Foundation General Fund |
| **Agricultural Proficiency Awards** | | | | | |
| Agricultural Electrification | **Larry Nance**<br>Pattonsburg, Missouri<br>Maysville FFA Chapter | Scott Kuenning<br>New Bremen, Ohio<br>New Bremen FFA Chapter | Danny Ray<br>Glennville, Georgia<br>Glennville FFA | Wesley Smith<br>Elko, Nevada<br>Ruby Mountain FFA | Farm Electrification Council, Inc. |
| Agricultural Mechanics | William Berry<br>Blissfield, Michigan<br>Blissfield FFA Chapter | George Lipscomb<br>Aurora, West Virginia<br>Aurora FFA Chapter | Ricky Pruett<br>Conway, Arkansas<br>Vilonia FFA Chapter | **David Landolt**<br>Yerington, Nevada<br>Mason Valley FFA | International Harvester Company |
| Agricultural Processing | Jeff Potts<br>Denmark, Wisconsin<br>Denmark FFA Chapter | **Rick Heffelfinger**<br>Ashland, Ohio<br>Ashland FFA Chapter | Jimmy White<br>Perry, Georgia<br>Perry Senior FFA | David Wells<br>Tremonton, Utah<br>Bear River FFA | Carnation Company |
| Agricultural Sales and/or Service | Steve Heithoff<br>Elgin, Nebraska<br>Elgin FFA Chapter | Brian Duffy<br>Green Springs, Ohio<br>Clyde FFA Chapter | Steven Bellon<br>Iota, Louisiana<br>Iota High FFA | **Gary Roberson**<br>Olympia, Washington<br>Centralia FFA | Allis Chalmers Corporation |
| Beef Production | Richard Askew<br>Fredonia, Kentucky<br>Caldwell County FFA | James Kean<br>Louisa, Virginia<br>Louisa County FFA | Ivan Bond<br>Perkinston, Mississippi<br>Stone County FFA | Jeff Taylor<br>Guthrie, Oklahoma<br>Guthrie FFA Chapter | NASCO and Sperry New Holland |
| Crop Production | **Kendall Foster**<br>Laredo, Missouri<br>Trenton FFA Chapter | Lynwood Broaddus<br>Milford, Virginia<br>Bowling Green FFA | Timothy O'Neal<br>Oak Grove, Louisiana<br>Oak Grove FFA Chapter | Bruce Corn<br>Nyssa, Oregon<br>Nyssa FFA Chapter | Funk Seeds International |
| Dairy Production | **Vern Brown**<br>Jonesville, Michigan<br>Jonesville FFA | Jeffrey Miller<br>Kutztown, Pennsylvania<br>Kutztown FFA Chapter | Stanley Brown<br>Citronelle, Alabama<br>Citronelle High FFA | Michael Attaway<br>Yantis, Texas<br>Yantis FFA Chapter | The De Laval Separator Company and AVCO New Idea |
| Diversified Livestock Production | Robert Maas<br>Sleepy Eye, Minnesota<br>Sleepy Eye FFA | Dan Frobose<br>Pemberville, Ohio<br>Eastwood FFA Chapter | Larry Sparkman<br>Hartselle, Alabama<br>Danville FFA Chapter | **Troy Henry**<br>Stratford, Oklahoma<br>Stratford FFA | A. O. Smith Harvestore Products, Inc. and Keystone Steel and Wire Division of Keystone Consolidated Industries, Inc. |
| Fish and Wildlife Management | Suzie Tyrrell<br>Sycamore, Illinois<br>Sycamore FFA Chapter | Billy Hudnall<br>Kilmarnock, Virginia<br>Lancaster FFA Chapter | John Summerford<br>Falkville, Alabama<br>Falkville FFA Chapter | **Mike Sartorie**<br>Billings, Montana<br>Yellowstone FFA | National FFA Foundation General Fund |
| Forest Management | David Udovich<br>Gheen, Minnesota<br>Orr FFA Chapter | Binnie Nash<br>Gladys, Virginia<br>William Campbell FFA | Bryan Mobley<br>Macclenny, Florida<br>Baker County FFA | Seth Boettcher<br>Elbe, Washington<br>Eatonville FFA | Weyerhaeuser Company |
| Home and Farmstead Improvement | **Patrick Shemak**<br>Highland, Wisconsin<br>Highland FFA Chapter | Ronnie Thomas<br>Goodview, Virginia<br>Smith Mountain FFA | Troy Tolbert<br>Oak Grove, Louisiana<br>Kilbourne FFA Chapter | Tim Hutchings<br>Visalia, California<br>Mt. Whitney FFA | The Upjohn Company |
| Horse Proficiency | Betty McIntyre<br>Brownstown, Illinois<br>Brownstown FFA | **Ellen MacLaughlin**<br>Holland Patent, NY<br>Holland Patent FFA | John Riddle<br>Greenville, SC<br>Greenville FFA | Suzanne Armstrong<br>Cypress, Texas<br>Cy-Fair FFA | The American Morgan Horse Association |
| Ornamental Horticulture | Richard Draheim<br>Marshfield, Wisconsin<br>Marshfield FFA | Kurt Kefferstan<br>Andover, Massachusetts<br>Essex FFA Chapter | Mark Williams<br>Orlando, Florida<br>Orlando-Colonial FFA | **Robert Greisen**<br>Scappoose, Oregon<br>Scappoose FFA | National FFA Foundation General Fund |
| Outdoor Recreation | **Haven Speckman**<br>Sleepy Eye, Minnesota<br>Sleepy Eye FFA | Robert Henderson<br>Rochester, NH<br>Dover FFA Chapter | David Settlemires<br>Ripley, Mississippi<br>Falkner FFA Chapter | Kenneth Stambaugh<br>Cody, Wyoming<br>Buffalo Bill FFA | White Farm Equipment Company |
| Placement in Agricultural Production | Roman Mezyk<br>Oxford, Wisconsin<br>Wisconsin Dells, FFA | **Michael Estock**<br>Louisville, Ohio<br>Marlington FFA | Danny McKinney<br>Russellville, Alabama<br>Russellville FFA | Carl Harrell<br>Ellensburg, WA<br>Ellensburg FFA | Hesston Corporation and Shell Chemical Company |
| Poultry Production | Kurtis Carlson<br>Stratford, Iowa<br>South Hamilton FFA | David Bernet<br>Hanoverton, Ohio<br>United FFA Chapter | **Sam Spruell**<br>Mt. Hope, Alabama<br>Mt. Hope FFA Chapter | Jim Smith<br>Lehi, Utah<br>Lehi FFA Chapter | Allied Mills, Inc. |
| Sheep Production | **Dan Lippert**<br>Blomkest, Minnesota<br>Danube FFA Chapter | John Burch<br>Warsaw, Ohio<br>River View FFA Chapter | Mark Lott<br>Cottondale, Florida<br>Cottondale FFA | Pat Erstrom<br>Vale, Oregon<br>Vale FFA Chapter | National FFA Foundation General Fund |
| Soil and Water Management | **Philip Broer**<br>Iowa Falls, Iowa<br>Iowa Falls FFA | John Sickle<br>Cardington, Ohio<br>Buckeye Valley FFA | Timmy Sumner<br>Omega, Georgia<br>Tift County FFA | Russell Liming<br>Kirk, Colorado<br>Liberty FFA Chapter | Ford Motor Company |
| Swine Production | **Randy Rodgers**<br>Bellflower, Missouri<br>Montgomery County FFA | Rick Fogle<br>Marion, Ohio<br>Ridgedale FFA Chapter | Steve Shackelford<br>Ripley, Mississippi<br>Pine Grove FFA | Steve Meyer<br>Mannford, Oklahoma<br>Mannford FFA Chapter | Pfizer, Inc., Agricultural Division |
| **Building Our American Communities** | | | | | |
| National BOAC Citation | Winterset FFA Chapter<br>Winterset, Iowa | Appomattox FFA Chapter<br>Appomattox, Virginia | **Berrien FFA Chapter**<br>Nashville, Georgia | Pasco FFA Chapter<br>Pasco, Washington | Lilly Endowment, Inc. |

## National Judging Contests

| Contest | Winning Team | High Individual | Sponsor |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agricultural Mechanics | Ohio—James Hefner, Lafayette; Scott Wonders, Ashland, and Steve Wilson, Lancaster | **Steve Wilson**<br>Lancaster, Ohio | The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company |
| Dairy Cattle | Missouri—William Erwin, Kenneth Dillard, and Wayne Seitz; Pleasant Hope | **Kenny Mannion**<br>Scottsville, Kentucky | Associated Milk Producers, Inc. & Mid-America Dairymen, Inc. |
| Farm Business Management | Missouri—Mark Kleoppel, Dennis Hoffman, and Wayne Dillon; Odessa | **Dennis Hoffman**<br>Odessa, Missouri | Deere & Company |
| Horticulture | Ohio—Mark Bauman and Carol Flanagan, Cleveland; Teresa Kline and Beth Preda, North Caton | **Suzette Carpenter**<br>Frederick, Maryland | American Association of Nurserymen, Inc., Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Inc., Gulf Oil Chemicals Co., Trans-Sphere Corporation |
| Livestock | Kansas—Mark Westhusin, Aaron Markley, and Patrick Burton; Plainsville | **Randy Shorb**<br>Hardesty, Oklahoma | Ralston Purina Company |
| Meats | Texas—Len Weinheimer, Barret Klein, and Dale Crenwelge; Fredericksburg | **Len Weinheimer**<br>Fredericksburg, Texas | Jones Dairy Farm, George A. Hormel & Co., Wilson & Co., Inc., Oscar Mayer & Co. |
| Milk Quality and Dairy Foods | Missouri—Ricky Ogden, Keith Crum and Randy Adey; Licking | **Rick Ogden**<br>Licking, Missouri | Mid-America Dairymen, Inc. and Associated Milk Producers, Inc. |
| Poultry | Virginia—Daniel King, David Yutzy and Melanie Burgess; Broadway | **Paul Smith**<br>Burns, Wyoming | National FFA Foundation General Fund |

# Old Grist Mill's
# Good as Gold

WATER mills used to be as common in Gadsden County, Florida, as the numerous creeks that meandered through her forested hills. Today there is but one—Shepard's Mill—which in fact is the only water-driven mill still in use in the entire state of Florida!

Randy Hanna, state FFA vice president and last year's state star agribusinessman from Greensboro, Florida, grew up as a fourth generation miller. For the past 47 years the Hanna family has operated Shepard's Mill, originally built on the site in 1875. Before that Randy's grandfather and great-grandfather had run mills of their own.

Randy is confident that although all of the other mills have died off, theirs is in no danger of following that lead. "Our business is growing," he says, "and with the cost of energy going up for the big millers, our business is financially sound. The mill's worth has increased even more with the public's growing fascination with natural foods."

Part of the reason for the Hanna's success with the mill is their talents at finding new avenues of distribution for their product. Randy's father, Mr. Wayne Hanna, an FFA American Farmer degree recipient in 1954, began making deliveries in a small box pickup truck. The expansion into grocery stores and supermarkets has built up to the point where the Hannas make daily deliveries using two semi-trucks to a seven county area in Florida and into neighboring states of Georgia and Alabama. In addition, the business sells their products wholesale to a chain of junior food stores with 255 stores in four states.

"Corn meal ground with the old water-driven wheel is still the number one product we sell," says Randy. "It's popular here because so many generations have grown up eating it, ground from this same mill." Packing of the meal is done at the mill warehouse. On each bag of meal is an artist's drawing of the mill and its surroundings.

Beside cornmeal, the business also acts as a distributor for rice, hushpuppy mix, beans, peas, flour, syrup, and pickling lime. Several of the commodities are delivered in bulk to Hanna's warehouse, where they are sacked or packaged for delivery to small retail outlets.

"Most of the big companies couldn't afford to deliver all of their goods to so many small stores," says Randy. "They can make one big delivery to us each week and we make sure it gets to the right stores and promote its sale to new stores."

Running an old-fashioned grist mill doesn't seem to influence Randy's modern outlook on life. His understanding of agriculture and its future helped him become the state's Commissioner of Agriculture at Florida's Boys State where he had the chance to work with that state's Commissioner of Agriculture, Doyle Conner, a former National FFA Officer. Randy also earned the Boy Scouts' Eagle Scout award and served as a page in the Florida House of Representatives.

Commenting on his start in FFA Randy says, "I didn't know about agribusiness when I joined FFA. So I started a production swine project," he admits almost apologetically. The pig project which he expanded to 5 sows, a boar and 36 feeder pigs his junior year under the guidance of vocational agriculture instructor James Deas were enough for Randy to earn the Southern Regional Proficiency award in swine production in 1975.

By trading labor at the mill for the waste grain at the mill, he was able to feed all his breeding stock without buying commercial feed.

"I am really proud of my swine project because it was something I started from scratch on my own," he says about his proficiency award.

"But the biggest thrill came when I was elected vice president of the Florida FFA Association. That was a goal I'd worked for."

Randy Hanna, swine producer, agribusinessman and state officer, plans to stay with agriculture and the mill—and that's a future as good as gold.

Clarence Knebel orients class to the art of meat processing. The program set up between the school and the processing plant offers students hands on experience.

# This Course Makes Them Meat Cutters

PEOPLE drive from a radius of 300 miles to buy meat from Clarence Knebel. They know they'll buy a quality product.

Knebel's Processing Plant in Belmont, Wisconsin, has won more honors including national awards than any other small processor in the country. Clarence Knebel, the owner and manager, has served as president of both his state's and the American Association of Meat Processors.

With that kind of business in Belmont, FFA Advisor Robert Ray knew he had access to something too good to pass up.

So in 1966, when on-the-job training was enjoying a remarkable rebirth in our society the two men got together along with the local school superintendent and devised a course of study for meat cutters. The majority of the 14 week course is held at the processing plant which is equipped with almost every piece of equipment found in a modern meat plant.

In the ten years that have passed since the program was organized, over 150 boys have received training from Knebel and his 22 employees. Many have gone on to college or vo-tech school to receive further training in the art of meat cutting. One young man has set up his own processing business.

"We treat the boys like part of the team," says Knebel. "They're expected to do their share. We write up a schedule for them at the start of each week and when they come in, they just scatter out and go to work."

Knebel's employees, who take considerable pride in their work, act as specialty instructors. The training prepares the students to become meat salesmen, retail market managers, graders, inspectors, livestock buyers and processing foremen.

All boys are trained in each of the skills from the killing procedure to retail merchandising. "They learn to do everything," notes Knebel, "except the extremely dangerous things. They even work with the state meat inspector to learn grading techniques."

Knebel reacts positively when asked to evaluate the program. "We've been amazed at the success. We've had no injuries and no conflicts between students and the employees. We'll take any agriculture student who wants to learn. Some of the students who don't do well in school really get enthused about this business."

Often the plant is used for training the Belmont FFA judging teams which have experienced success, particularly in meat and livestock judging. Knebel's also cooperates with another local business to sponsor FFA delegates to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City. Such cooperation also extends to nearby University of Wisconsin which calls on Knebel to help train their judging teams and in return supplies some necessary equipment and meat products to train the high school students.

The students find there is more to the meat industry than just cutting, wrapping, and retailing. For a few weeks of the course the boys in ag class trade places with the home economics students. They learn how to prepare the meats they've been handling. At the same time the students in home economics learn a little bit about the meat processing business.

The boys do not receive pay, yet there are some side benefits to taking the class. "We get some pretty tasty samples," says one student. At the end of the course Knebel, who stresses the importance of building employee pride in his business, throws a steak fry offering students all they can eat. "They must put down two and a half pounds apiece," he says shaking his head in disbelief.

"It does cost some money to train these boys," notes Knebel, "and some meat gets spoiled. But if I break even it's worth it. There is a lot of personal satisfaction in this and the boys pass the word about what a good plant this is."

Students learn techniques to help them evaluate all retail meat cuts.

Backed by his trophies for quality meat, Knebel discusses course with Mr. Ray.

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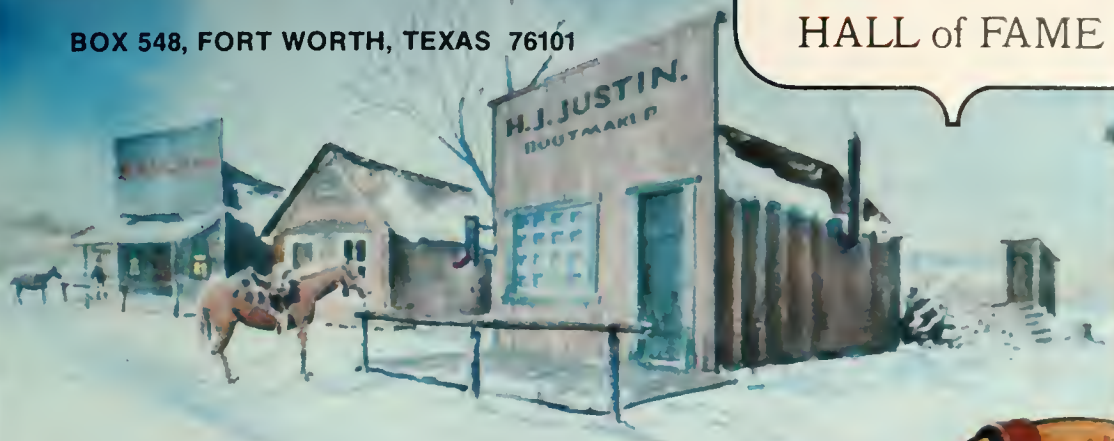


Justin *98 Years Of Quality*

# Will you be a COLLEGE DROPOUT?

*By Russell J. Fornwalt*

STATISTICS show that about 28 percent of college students drop out during their freshman year. More than 50 percent fail to graduate. Academically speaking, these are high mortality rates. Perhaps they are higher than they need to be.

Why are there so many fatalities, especially during the first year? What can you do to insure your success in college right now? What can you do to protect an investment of up to $25,000, or more, which either your family or some organization is making in your future?

For those of you starting college these are important questions. And, they may be of equal concern to you who are already in an institution of higher learning.

The first thing to keep in mind, if college graduation is your goal, is that college success does not begin in college. It begins in high school, if not way down in the lower grades.

How well, for example, do you know the times tables? Do you write neatly and legibly? What about your spelling, punctuation and grammar? Are you a rapid reader (say 250 to 350 words per minute), or do you plod slowly and wearily through a book? Do you love to study? In fact, can you say that you really know how to study?

If, by the time you enter college, you have not acquired effective study habits, that first term may be a tough one, maybe even fatal. Learn to study now. Improve your reading speed and comprehension now. Then, when that college history professor says, "Tomorrow's assignment is the next 225 pages," you will be able to handle it with ease and even joy.

The transition from high school to college might be difficult to make. You will find that the subjects are different. The teaching methods are different. Marking systems are different. Assignments are usually more time consuming and harder.

Generally speaking, the atmosphere, especially in a large university, is quite impersonal. Your English or American History lecture professor may never get to know you by name or even by sight during the entire year. There may be several hundred in your class, and you are merely a seat number. So, do not be surprised when Professor Smart fails to greet or recognize you on the street or campus. He has never really seen you.

Academic life in college is indeed different. During the first year it can be quite difficult and demanding. But it need not be disastrous.

In your first semester, then, it is important that you go all out for success. Here are some suggestions:

1) *No part-time job.* Your freshman program of classes, lectures, library assignments, laboratory work and home study will be a full-time job in itself. Concentrate on it exclusively, if you can possibly do so. A part-time job, such as waiting on tables or movie usher, might well hinder your academic progress.

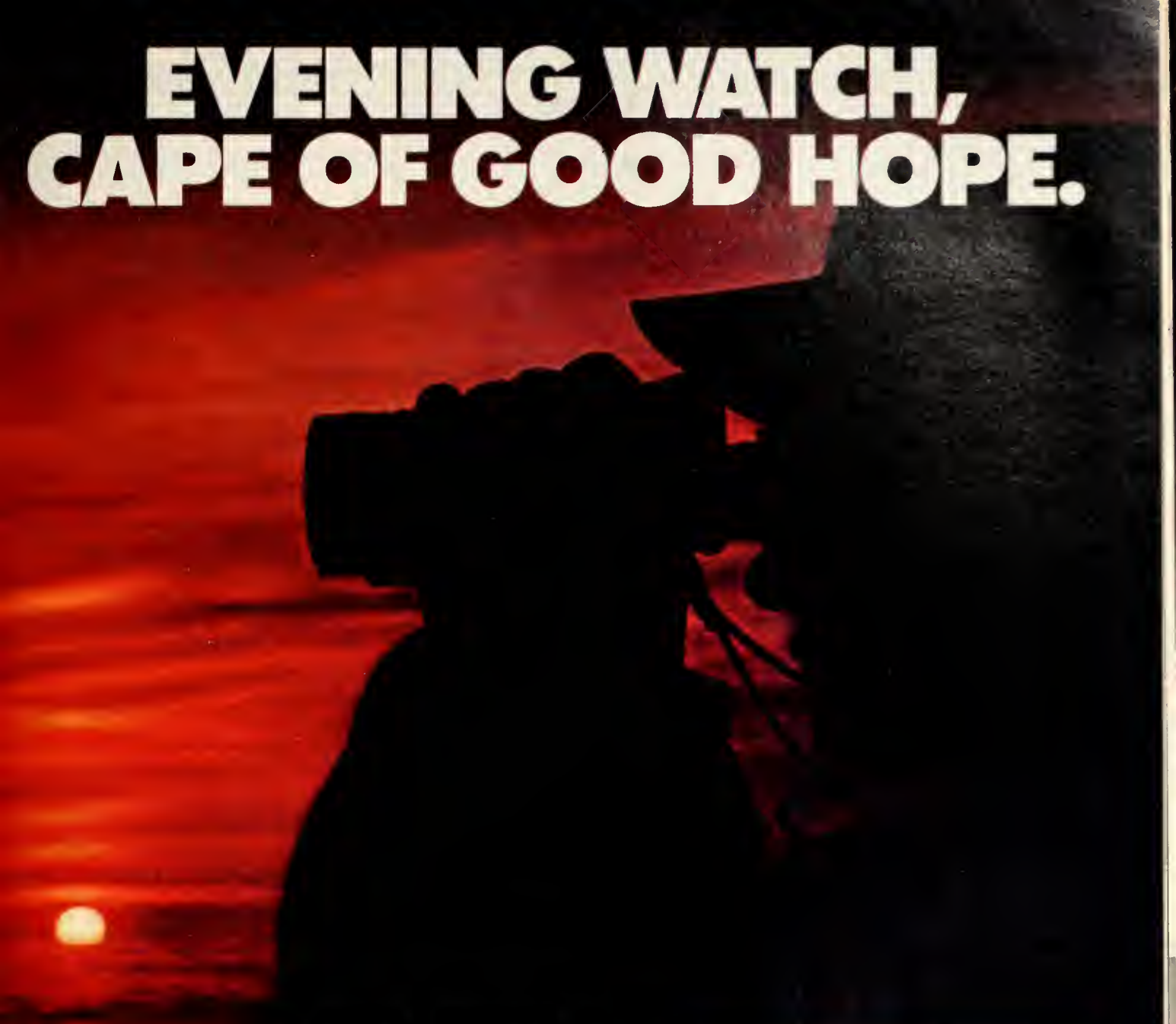
However, if you must work because of the need for money, take a job which will provide you with study time. Examples of such jobs are babysitting or working as an attendant in the library or locker room.

2) *Leave your car at home.* Many colleges do not allow freshmen to have cars on the campus. But even if your college does, you will be wiser to leave your old jalopy or Rolls-Royce at home. Then you will not be tempted to go on joy rides and neglect your studies.

3) *Avoid cutting classes.* In college you are allowed so many "unexcused absences." And, if you make the Dean's List or Honor Roll, you may be permitted unlimited absences. But it really is counter-productive to cut any classes except for illness or some other good

*(Continued on Page 36)*

# EVENING WATCH, CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.



The first man to round it was Portuguese—Bartholomeu Dias in 1488, probing past Africa for a sea route to the Indies. He weathered its storms, then landed to give it its name. Cabo da Boa Esperança—Cape of Good Hope.

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# NAVY. IT'S NOT JUST A JOB, IT'S AN ADVENTURE.

# Westward The Wagon

TWENTY-TWO long days in a covered wagon. From early dawn to the setting sun. Through sunshine, rain, and the sudden chill of early autumn. A trek reminiscent of the early years of the American west.

But this time the beckoning call came not from the gold mines of California or the timbered valleys of Oregon, but from the stage of the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri. And the foot-weary travellers were not pioneers in search of a better life, but FFA members of a northeastern FFA district in Indiana.

To a cry of "Kansas City 'er Bust," the wagon and its blue-jacketed escorts kicked off their Bicentennial pilgrimage from the Indiana FFA leadership camp at Trafalgar, Indiana. Under the watchful and experienced eye of R. W. "Doc" Guinther, a veteran vocational agriculture teacher of thirty-nine years, the wagon train covered 500 miles and three states.

The idea for the ride came first from the 1973 National FFA Convention where participants were issued a challenge to commemorate the coming bicentennial with worthwhile activities. One FFA father, Mr. Jack Gaby, attending the convention said "we ought to ride a pony express message of greeting to the '76 National Convention 'er something."

The "er something" materialized into a horse drawn covered wagon routed to arrive in Kansas City at convention time.

Preparations for the adventure began early in the summer. Mr. Gaby donated a wagon frame which was outfitted with an authentic Prairie Schooner style wagon box, bows, and covered by the Prairie Heights FFA Chapter under direction of advisor Ned Stump. The wagon was used throughout the summer in fairs and parades to promote FFA and the pilgrimage.

Donations were collected and the contributors' names inscribed on Indiana Tulip Poplar plaques and then fastened to the wagon for permanent display. The East Noble Chapter established the journey route and made initial contacts for overnight stays.

On October 16 at the FFA Camp, the wagon, its team and first groups of FFA members (groups of four or five from different Indiana chapters took four-day stints with the wagon) were sent off with the official Hoosier flag presented at the ceremony by Governor Otis R. Bowen.

For the following three weeks the wagon became a travelling promotion for Indiana agriculture and the FFA.

Each night after their daily 20-mile journey, the accompanying FFA team would present a specially prepared heritage program to the host FFA chapter. The program included the showing of a slide show about Indiana's agriculture and usually concluded with the official signing of a pledge of rededication aimed at renewing the beliefs in our country's principles.

The original plan called for the journey to be "dutch treat," each member expected to pay his or her own way. But seldom did the members spend their money or open their own food supplies.

"Folks were wonderful," said Doc Guinther. Many times the wagoneers would be asked into someone's house for hot chocolate or a snack. "Twice we were requested to stop at schools and once at an old folks' home," the wagon master adds.

According to Doc the groups never had trouble finding a place to stay either. In fact, only twice did the horses even spend the night under the open skies.

Hosts were ceremoniously presented with recognition plaques made of Indiana limestone and the Indiana Tulip Poplar. Usually they were given the chance to drive the wagon for a few miles.

The journey was full of incidents characteristic of the days of yesteryear. Worn wheels, sick travellers, and even a runaway wagon in the city of Independence, Missouri.

But despite those problems, the wagon arrived "on time" to become one of the major attractions at the National FFA Career Show.

Following the convention the wagon was hauled back to the Indiana FFA camp where it will be on permanent display as a reminder of the Bicentennial pilgrimage and the spirit of adventure it represented.

A typical group of wagoneers posed for pictures before striking out. Seventeen FFA chapters from Indiana cooperated to make the Bicentennial pilgrimage successful.

"Doc" Guinther, wagon master, organizes the crew for another day's ride. At sixty-five years old, Doc easily gained the respect of crews for his horse sense and humor.

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# FARMFEST '76

## "Celebration Of Two Centuries"

*By Gary Bye*

FROM the moment the first headlights broke the morning darkness on September 13, it was obvious Farmfest '76 was one of those never to be forgotten events.

Less than 30 minutes after the official opening, as visitors and exhibitors began finding their way through the streets and avenues of their temporary farmer's city, the darkening clouds which ironically held promise for an end to Minnesota's worst drought since the 1930's, opened up in a deluge that left fairgoers up to their ankles in rich black mud.

Despite such an uncomfortable kick-off, the nation's Bicentennial salute to agriculture drew massive and appreciative crowds to look, listen, and to just enjoy the celebration.

FFA was at Farmfest too—perhaps more in evidence than at any other farm show of its kind.

State FFA officers from over 40 states congregated at the site to become old time farmers, housewives, home builders and bartenders in a lifelike 1890's Living History Farm and Western Village. The old house, barn, farmyard and authentic western village were unquestionably the highlights for many Farmfest goers. Among the visitors was Vice Presidential candidate Senator Robert Dole.

"The best part of our involvement was seeing how 40 states' officers would become a team in such a short amount of time," said Tennessee's Vice President Jimmy Joyner. "We learned a lot of things about what farming was like before the turn of the century. We represented the past in a national event that demonstrated the past, present and future of agriculture."

For the six girl state officers who found themselves in the role of old time homemakers it was especially enlightening. "The worst thing was not being able to go out to work in the barn and with the animals," said Jodi Peacock, state secretary for Ohio and last year's winner of the National Horse Proficiency award. "It made us appreciate the conveniences we have at home that have helped women get out of the kitchen."

State officers Peg Armstrong, Iowa, and Curtis Heaton, Utah, fit the role of a Nineteenth Century farm couple.

The FFA headquarters, a meeting place for FFA members from across the country, was usually crowded with FFA members and farm people. They learned about FFA's involvement with Food For America through the premiere showing of a new 4½-minute film on the making of a cheeseburger and the amount of agricultural technology that goes into it.

A few yards from the headquarters was situated the FFA Barn, full of animals and local Minnesota FFA members explaining to boys and girls and their curious parents the role animals play in food and fiber production.

Behind the scenes (there is always more work to it than it looks) were the workings of several local Minnesota FFA chapters and other Midwest chapters who, for example, pre-sold nearly 100,000 tickets to Farmfest

FFA Headquarters provided a meeting place for FFA members from throughout the nation. Members from 41 different states were at Lake Crystal, Minnesota.

Farmfest was full of color and excitement. Above left, a massive farm crowd watches the world champion tractor pulling contest. At right, above, Ohio FFA officer Jodi Peacock, a national FFA Horse Proficiency winner gets out of the kitchen long enough to ride in the old style. Above, an FFA member is part of grain threshing bee, while at left, one of his friends takes a break from all the hard work.

(nearly $50,000 was paid to these chapters through sales commissions).

"Most of our members worked at the grounds at sometime during the year," said Lake Crystal, Minnesota, Advisor Norman Sieling. "Some worked on the field crews in testing crops and others drove tractors and helped set up the grounds."

On the giant map set up at FFA headquarters, the number of pins used to denote the towns and cities from which FFA members came totalled 550. Over 12,000 FFA members, most wearing blue and gold corduroy jackets, registered representing 42 states.

An example of the type of FFA members drawn to Farmfest was a chapter from Sidney, New York. Eight members and their advisor travelled by van to Farmfest, each paying their own expenses. In addition to visiting Farmfest, the group made several stops to visit farms and agricultural industries along the way. "Farmfest offered a chance to see the best of this country's agricultural industry, both at the grounds and along the way," said Mike Barnes, the chapter's president.

Mike and the rest of the Farmfest visitors saw hundreds of new farm machines, acres of field demonstrations, antique machinery and even the World Championship Tractor Pulling contest. They were among nearly 800,000 visitors who attended Farmfest through the week, running from September 13 through 19.

Farmfest '76 paid a much deserved tribute to agriculture. FFA members played an important and very evident role in the affair through their activities. Appropriately FFA, representing the future of farming, tipped its hat to the most important industry in the world.

Part of the Farmfest activities included barn raising. Terry Isaacs from Florida looks like an old hand at the process.

*Photos by L. J. Emerson*

Members of a machinery identification stamping team from Clarinda, Iowa. From left, Mark Holt, Dave Mulkins, Brian Tally, Jeff Johnson and Advisor Don Hanson.

# Stamping Out Crime

CRIME used to be confined to the cities. No more.

The tentacles of crime have slithered past the city limit signs, down the country roads and are sucking the vitality from rural America.

Because of the increased value of farm products, machinery, chemicals and fuels, these key ingredients to agricultural industry have become tantalizing targets for those who live off the toil of others.

FFA members in Iowa are doing something to combat the problem. In cooperation with the Iowa State Sheriff and Deputy's Association, the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and the Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation, FFA chapters are helping to establish a voluntary program of farm equipment identification.

The program works like this. First, the FBI assigns a number to each county in the state. Farmers then register at their county sheriff's office and receive their own "farm identification number" (which includes the FBI number). By tying in the identification numbers with LETS (Law Enforcement Teletype System), the number and description of a stolen item is accessible to every law enforcement officer in the nation.

An individual farmer can buy a small stamping kit for $30.00 to mark each piece of his equipment. That's where many of Iowa's FFA chapters have stepped in. Mr. Donald Hanson, FFA advisor in Clarinda, Iowa, explains. "Our chapter purchased a complete stamping kit for $94.00. It contains three sets of each number plus the letters for the state. We offer to stamp all of a farmer's equipment for $5.00, so he won't have to buy his own stamp. It saves him money and serves as a good community service activity."

A supplementary program for the identification of grain is also being set up. Confetti-like tabs of coded paper (using the same code numbers as the machinery) is mixed with the grain. Separation of these coded pieces of paper from the grain by a thief would be impractical. The permanent marking makes it impossible for the grain to be resold by anyone but the owner.

"The FFA was a tremendous asset in getting the machinery identification program off the ground," says Jerry Downin, who helps coordinate the program for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. "A pilot county (Grundy County) was selected and members from the county's three FFA chapters teamed up with their local farmers to mark machinery and explain the program. Now there are probably close to 40 chapters involved in the same type of effort throughout the state. We've encouraged other states to use FFA members to initiate their stamping programs, based on the success we've had here in Iowa."

Sheriff Bill Martin of Grundy County praised the work of FFA members in getting the program rolling. "The

Over sixty farmers signed up for the machinery stamping service at the Clarinda FFA booth at their county fair.

*Clarinda FFA Photo*

Each machine is marked with a farmer's own identification number according to standards of the sheriff's association.

members did an excellent job. We worked three full days and covered the whole county, perhaps 250 to 300 farms. Adult farmers drove teams of three to four boys around and the boys did all the marking. The community reaction was good and the school officials cooperated 100 percent in letting the boys out during school time."

Would Sheriff Martin recommend other communities use FFA members for Project Identification? "Always," he says. "Always employ a youth group and which would be better suited than the FFA?"

Although the program is still in its infant stages, results are already beginning to show. One farmer who lost a citizen band radio from his farm pickup had it returned in a matter of days when the thieves were apprehended and the code number led officials back to the owner.

Sheriff Dennis Carr, president of the State Sheriff's Association says the coding system has two advantages. "First, it's a deterrent against theft," he says. "Farmers can post signs in strategic places throughout the farm, letting a would-be thief know that his machinery has been coded. Then if, in fact, property is stolen and recovered, it can be returned to its owner, no matter what state or county he happens to live in."

Sheriff Carr continues, "Crime is increasing in our rural areas. An example which I use to show the need for the program is the automobile. It may cost $5,000 and it is marked a number of ways so it can be identified. But a $40,000 tractor only has one serial plate. It is usually affixed with pop rivets that can be just knocked off."

A "farm identification number" stamp.

Long term success of the system will lie in the acceptance by the citizens of Iowa and the adaptation of the program by surrounding states. To promote the program, the Iowa Farm Bureau has developed a film, explaining the program, which will be shown throughout the country. Five surrounding states have in fact already adopted the identification program and another 15 are in the beginning stages.

The quick acceptance of the program by citizens in Grundy County and in other areas where it is being introduced seems to come from the knowledge that it is purely voluntary. "There is absolutely no federal or state assistance involved," notes Jerry Downin. "Local people pay for it and make it work. If it succeeds it's because they have made it succeed."

Grundy County is a good example of a community's effort to make it work. In early November, they again served as a pilot county, taking Project Identification one step further. With cooperation from community groups including FFA, the Future Homemakers and the Farm Bureau Women, the citizens undertook the marking of all their valuable personal belongings with their personal code number.

By cooperating with others and showing concern for their community, FFA members in Iowa are stamping out crime. *Other chapters, in any state, who are interested in receiving a pamphlet describing the voluntary crime prevention equipment identification system in Iowa, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: The Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, 5400 University Avenue, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265.*


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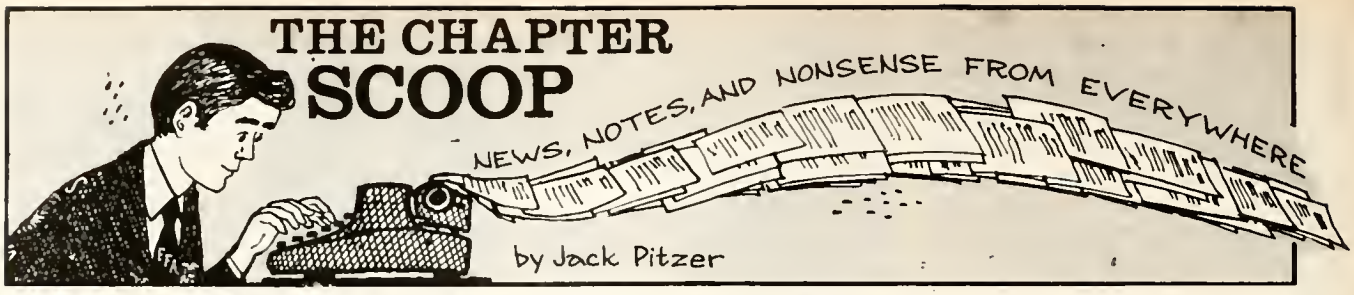



No wonder homecoming dance sponsored by *King George*, Virginia, FFA was such a success. Team had won 52-6.

N-N-N

Summer project for *Big Walnut*, Ohio, Chapter was working at a camp for mentally retarded—cleaning old trails, making new ones.

N-N-N

Advisor Dishman, *Mexico*, Missouri, was auctioned at 36 cents a pound and brought in $111.60. That's fund raising!

N-N-N

A state senator was featured speaker at ceremony to raise 51 new Greenhands into *Talawanda*, Ohio, Chapter.

N-N-N

Nominees for office at *Grants Pass*, Oregon, gave speeches before elections.

N-N-N

Officers of *Lake Hamilton*, Arkansas, held a chapter leadership session like national and state officers have.

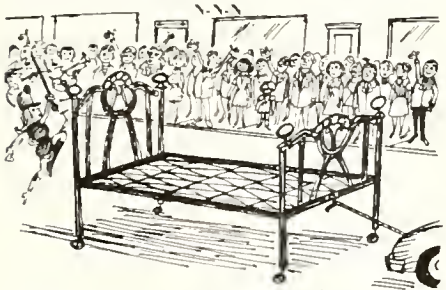
N-N-N

*Wonewoc-Center*, Wisconsin, Chapter selected **Sherri Santas** as queen to reign over FFA and agricultural events.

N-N-N

*Chariho*, Rhode Island, included a miniature 1770's farmstead in their fair exhibit this year.

N-N-N



*The Dalles*, Oregon, Bicentennial float showing the old and the new of agriculture was on a 20-foot flatbed.

N-N-N

The five acres of oats on *Tomales*, California, school farm is a cooperative project of members who wanted oats.

N-N-N

A newsletter called "Jaguar Roar" is published by *Somerset County*, New Jersey, Chapter. Edited by **Nancy Kemp** and designed to build member pride in FFA. It's posted on bulletin board for all to see.

N-N-N

**Mark Stock**, Reporter of *Troy*, Kansas, wrote about chapter's fall kickoff: tour of three members' farms with a weiner roast after.

N-N-N

*Grantsville*, Utah, took their tenth annual 100-mile trail ride this year.

**Barry Dunn, Rod Allen, Dave Lipscomb, Jerry Brown, Tommy Cash, Bobby Smith** and **Van Phu** planted trees and shrubs around new vocational building for *Heflin*, Alabama, FFA.

N-N-N

*Cleburne*, Texas, FFA had their county game warden conduct a gun safety course for their chapter.

N-N-N

Did you take time today to tell someone about FFA? Be proud of your membership.

N-N-N

"This year we held our fifth faculty breakfast and served 90 faculty, staff and administration." *Coggon*, Iowa.

N-N-N

There's still time for chapters who forgot to get in their order for '77 FFA Calendars. Orders can be filled until the supply of calendars runs out.

N-N-N

After just three years as a chapter, *Jackson-Milton* FFA in Ohio has earned a National Gold Emblem. They're mighty proud.

N-N-N

In *Deer Lodge*, Montana, they have a "Meat and Tater Shares" project. Sell tickets and five top winners each receive bag of potatoes plus quarter beef or ham or turkey or goose or hen.

N-N-N

NBC-TV visited the *Bell*, California, floristry class. Interviewed students on advantages of program.

N-N-N

*Brookings*, South Dakota, Chapter helped with an invitational livestock judging contest for collegiate chapters.

N-N-N

Supervised farming committee is planning a Pork Day at *Pleasantville*, Iowa, grocery store.

N-N-N

When salmon are running, *Jefferson*, Washington, members help at a local fish hatchery.

N-N-N

FFA rents farm from *Newton*, Iowa, airport.

N-N-N

Advisor Armour of *The Dalles*, Oregon, led the chapter's showmen with his premier sire Duroc at state fair.

**Jerry Robertson, Keith Coble, Paul Peterson** and **Lyndell Harker** are good livestock judges. As *Mountain Grove*, Missouri, team they took first in swine, second in beef and third in sheep at state fair.

N-N-N

After a barn burned in community, members of *Orrville*, Ohio, helped clean and paint the charred farrowing crates. Sophomores straightened crates that were out of shape, freshmen painted.

N-N-N

*Jeff Davis* FFA, Hazelhurst, Georgia, provides the floral arrangements for a church on Sunday of FFA WEEK.

N-N-N

The nationwide FFA WEEK celebration will be February 19-26, 1977. The theme for '77 is "FFA—Agriculture's NEW Generation." Ask your officers what your chapter will do to join in the celebration.

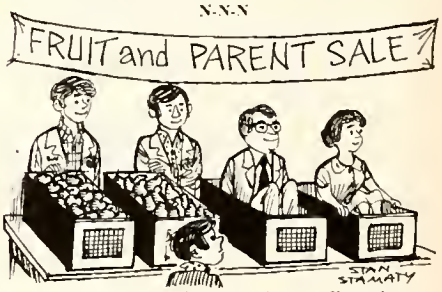
N-N-N

Besides helping a family during Christmas, *Guthrie Center*, Iowa, set up a Nativity scene in town and sponsored a movie, "American Graffiti" for their fellow school students before vacation.

N-N-N

*East Nicolaus*, California, FFA had a swim night and then ate hot dogs. Purpose of summer meeting was for officers to meet incoming freshmen.

N-N-N




Members selling at least five boxes of fruit and their parents were admitted free at *Belmond*, Iowa, banquet.

N-N-N

Here is an idea left over from last year's FFA WEEK. *Woodburn*, Indiana, served breakfast on WOWO radio station.

N-N-N

They bought a new 6-row International Cyclo planter for school farm at *Madison Plains*, Ohio.

N-N-N

They have fun at *Mt. St. Helens*, Washington, roller skating.

N-N-N

Where's the news, notes or nonsense from your chapter? If you don't send it in to the magazine, chances are no one will.

Christmas always brings back memories of good things, good people and good times. And, this year, as we close America's Bicentennial celebration with another joyous holiday season, I remember the Christmas of 1925 most of all.

That was my first year in the boot business, and Christmas was a time for extra celebration. Though I had very little money in those days, and my company was very small, my employees and I were very thankful for what we had achieved. We had worked hard. But, we had survived. And, though many thought we might fail, we had proved that there was indeed a place for people like us. People dedicated to making the finest western boots that money could buy.

Fifty-one years later, Nocona Boots have become a great tradition in the American West. And thousands of pairs will be given as gifts on Christmas morning. But, I still feel the way I felt so long ago. Grateful to my father, the late H. J. Justin, for giving me the determination to produce a quality product. And proud of the country that allowed me the opportunity to begin.

So, on this most joyous of holidays, I thank God for fifty-one years of close friends, good customers and loyal employees. But, I want to add a heartfelt "thank you" to America for giving me the precious freedom to succeed. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

*Enid Justin*

SINCE 1925

NOCONA BOOTS

*Merry Christmas*

STYLE #7992.
Plush Gold Genuine Anteater Vamp;
12-inch Whiskey Kiddie Top;
No. 17 Toe; C Heel;
Thin-Line Cushion Shank.

NOCONA BOOT COMPANY

ENID JUSTIN, PRESIDENT/P.O. BOX 599/NOCONA, TEXAS 76255/(817) 825-3321

The excitement of the Big E. Left, massing of the flags for the Star Farmer pageant. Above left, at the Farm-A-Rama. Right and below, FFA competition.

# THE BIG E

**The only regional gathering of FFA members on an annual basis, the Big E is big and still growing.**

OFFICIALS call it the Eastern States Exposition. To the locals it's called The Big E. It's one of those happenings that everybody seems to know about—at least if you're from New England and have anything at all to do with agriculture.

Organized in 1916 to unite agriculture and youth from all over New England, it has grown through 55 years to become the eighth largest fair in the nation. This year The Big E broke records by attracting a crowd of nearly one million visitors to its home in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The Big E is unique in another way. It serves as the only regional gathering of FFA members on an annual basis. Because of their close proximity to one another, almost all of the 15 states which make up the Eastern Region of the FFA meet at Springfield each year for team competition in 11 contest areas, to hold the regional public speaking contest from which is chosen a representative to the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, and to select their own Star Farmer from the group of state Star Farmers representing each of the 15 states.

The full day of competition is designated as FFA Day at The Big E and following the action is like trying to get a personal interview with all of the runners in the Boston Marathon. Nearly 400 participants vie for recognition and most of those participating have won the right to participate at Eastern States by winning their particular contest at the state level.

Roger Lawrence, State Supervisor of Agricultural Education in Connecticut and chairman of the Committee for FFA Activities at the Eastern States Exposition, says participation by FFA members in the last few years has grown by leaps and bounds.

*(Continued on Page 53)*

Big E Star Farmer Dale Siegfried with National FFA Veep Ron Wilson, Bob Chatelain of Sears, Roebuck & Company, far left and Congressman Silvio Conte.

# A present from Christmas past.

When you get a Marlin for Christmas, you're getting more than just a gun. You're getting your own little piece of history.

Because the rifles we build today aren't a whole lot different from the rifles we were building yesterday.

When people just like you were helping to tame the wilderness. And to shape America.

With its genuine American black walnut stock and solid top receiver, our Model 39 looks so much like the original, it's uncanny.

But more important, it's still made with the same uncompromising standards of quality and attention to detail.

Like an action precisely machined from solid steel forgings, then heat treated for the ultimate in durability.

Exclusive Wide-Scan™ front sight hood complemented by a traditional folding semi-buckhorn rear sight. Rust-proof brass magazine tube, simple one-step take-down, blued steel fore-end cap and rugged sling swivels.

And to get the most out of super-accurate Micro-Groove® rifling, the 39 comes with a scope adapter base and offset hammer spur.

The Marlin 39 is just one of eleven Marlin .22 lever actions, bolt actions and semi-automatics. Suggested retail prices from about $44.95. See the entire Marlin line, along with popular-priced Glenfield rifles, at your gun-dealer's.

Send for your free color catalog: Marlin Firearms Co., North Haven, Connecticut 06473.

**Marlin®** Made now as they were then.

# College Dropout

*(Continued from Page 24)*

reason. After all, whom do you actually short-change when you take days off needlessly? Why not get all the education you are paying for?

4) *Get to know your college.* Many auxiliary services may be available to help you succeed. Find out what they are, and then use them whenever necessary.

For example, some colleges have remedial reading clinics for students who want to increase their speed, accuracy and comprehension. There may be no charge at all, or the fees may be nominal.

If you are undecided as to a career goal, a vocational counselor may be at your service. It might even be a good idea for you to take aptitude and interest-preference tests.

The student personnel office may help you obtain part-time or summer employment. The admissions department may have scholarships and loan plans for your benefit. Most colleges have an infirmary with a doctor on call and a nurse on duty at all times. This leads to our next suggestion.

5) *Keep yourself in good health.* Even when you are in the pink, college is tough enough. So, make every effort to keep well. Get sufficient sleep. Do as much studying as possible before midnight. Eat three nourishing meals daily. Make use of your college's medical facilities when necessary.

6) *Not too many extra-curricular activities.* College, of course, should not be all work and no play. On the other hand, do not join every club, society and team on the campus. Rehearsals, meetings, competitions and trips are bound to interfere with your homework.

During your freshman year it is important that you learn how to budget your time wisely. Therefore, be very selective when it comes to extra-curricular activities. Join one or two that will contribute to your career goal (e.g., dramatic club, debating society, newspaper staff or "Future Scientists"). Join one which will give you some physical activity (e.g., hiking club or tennis or swimming team).

7) *Avoid extraneous activity.* Student protests, crusades for causes, panty-raids, goldfish swallowing and even "streaking" may have some appeal to you. But their ultimate value is very debatable. In any event, your main business in college is preparing for engineering, teaching, social work, law, medicine, a religious vocation or whatever you have chosen.

If you, therefore, become overly-involved in dubious side issues, your entire future may suffer. Every now and then students are suspended, expelled or prosecuted for unwarranted demonstrations, panty-raids and similar nonsense.

You may recall that some time ago students at one large university even revolted against morality and decency. Needless to say, you take no part in such violence.

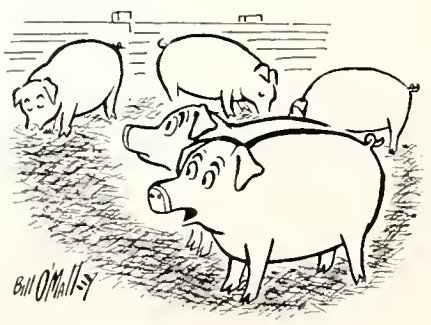
8) *Attend church or chapel regularly.* College can contribute much to your spiritual development. Pray and read your Bible daily. Attend religious services on weekdays and Sundays. Choose close associates who have spiritual moorings.

9) *Keep social dates to a minimum.* One nice feature about college is that you make many friends. And, of course, at a co-ed college you will make friends on both sides of the friendship aisle, so to speak. But, if you want to get high marks in Algebra I and Hindustani II, limit your socializing to an absolute minimum during the first year.

10) *Confer with your adviser.* One member of the college faculty will serve as your adviser, and part of his job is to help you to succeed. But he can help you only to the extent that you are willing to be helped. If you have personal, scholastic, financial or other problems, discuss them with your adviser freely and frankly. If he cannot help you, he can at least direct you to other resources either on the campus or in town.

The way to be successful in college is to take the initiative. "Ask, seek and knock" in other words. Do not wait for your adviser to send for you. Go to him whenever you have something troubling you. Ask him how to go about getting a scholarship or a loan. Ask him to help you choose "elective" subjects wisely. Ask him what to do about a subject in which you may be failing or not interested.

11) *Know where you are going.* Many students fail in college because they spend too much time just drifting or dreaming. They have no specific goals. They simply aren't going anywhere. They waste time and effort on "snap" or frivolous courses.




*"He's going into politics—on a $100-a-plate dinner."*

You want to be more than a college graduate. You want to be a successful one. You want to be qualified to enter a graduate school for law, medicine, dentistry, the ministry or some other profession. Or, you want to be prepared to start earning a living once you get your bachelor's degree. Most likely you will even go for a master's degree in your field of specialization. Perhaps you'll even top off your formal education with a doctorate. How 'bout that?

With a definite vocational objective in mind, your courses will mean more to you. You will have more interest in and enthusiasm for them, and you will make higher marks.

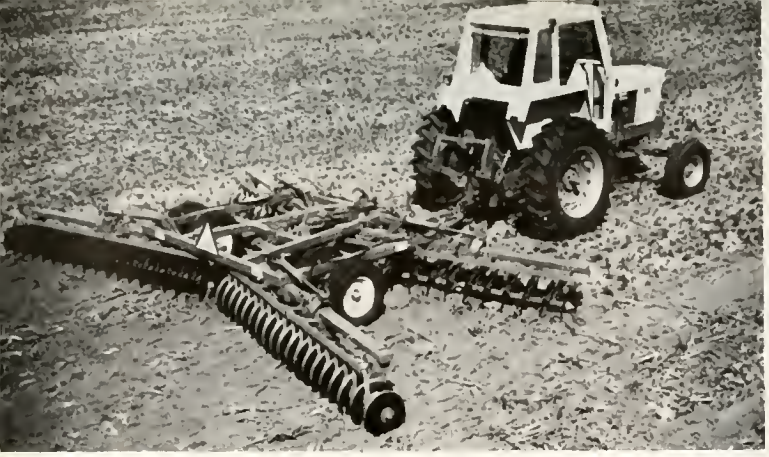
In addition to a career goal, you might have other goals, such as winning the Latin prize, membership in an honorary society or a scholarship for your senior year.

12) *Use study aids.* Equip your dormitory room or study den at home with as many reference books and visual aids as you can afford. A good English dictionary and thesaurus are absolute musts. If your major is a foreign language, you will need the appropriate dictionary. An atlas or globe, wall maps and review books can be very helpful. Keep a well-organized notebook for every course. Always be certain of your homework assignments and examination dates.

There is, of course, no sure-fire formula for success in college. But, if you will combine your intelligence, integrity, initiative and industry with generous portions of interest, enthusiasm, energy and enterprise, you will not and you cannot fail.

**How good is "good" in a few good men?** First of all, good means you're at least a high school graduate. Good means you have the brains to master a technical job in any one of our 39 occupational fields...some of which pay bonuses of up to $2,500 for certain guaranteed job skills. Good means some other things, too: quality of character, some athletic aptitude, and a large share of what coaches call "desire." The Marines are looking for quality...and that's what we're finding. Graduates who can meet our standards. If you're included, you'll find yourself in good company. Mail the card, or call 800-423-2600, toll free. In California, 800-252-0241.

# The Few. The Proud. The Marines.

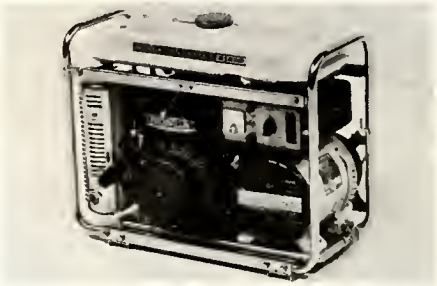


J. I. Case has expanded its line of tandem disk harrows with 10 new models featuring automatic hydraulic-fold wing latching and unlatching, making it unnecessary for the operator to have to leave the cab.

A pull-type automatic bale wagon, with the same load-carrying ability as the biggest self-propelled model, is a new addition to the line of bale wagons from Sperry New Holland. And features a stackside evener.

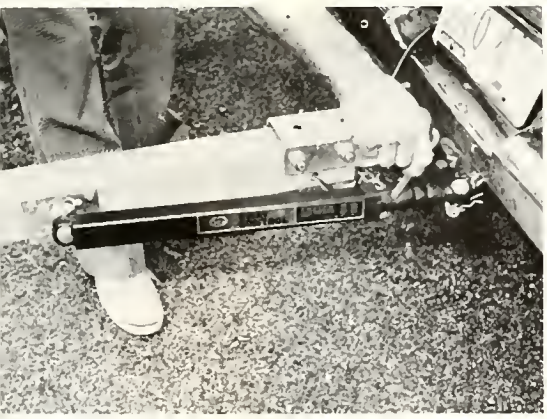
# Something New

International Harvester has introduced a new operator's control center concept for their tractors. Features special glass, air system, control panels on the seat, and many others.



Honda makes this portable generator which is most frequently used as the power source for recreation and on-site construction. Will run continuously up to four hours on a tank of gas.

John Deere introduced an electronic control system for planters to automatically control planting rate and gives on-the-go adjustment of planting population. Monitors planter too.



An adapter from Valley Tow-Rite makes their "sway control" system developed for A-frame trailers just as effective in controlling single tongue trailers used for hauling snowmobiles.

Hesston Corporation has introduced a new heavy-duty cultivator built to take the strain placed on tillage equipment by tractors of 100 horsepower or over. It is available in four widths. Features a safer, more convenient vertical folding system that can be operated from the seat.

Right: Ford Tractor introduced a new series of farm tractors featuring factory-installed noise-controlled deluxe safety cabs on units that will range from 32 to 135 PTO horsepower.

Left: New large two-wheel drive tractor from Massey-Ferguson offering 190 PTO horsepower. A new maximum-visibility cab. It is powered by a new 640 cu. in. turbocharged V-8 diesel.

# Stay ahead with Pioneer® corn BRAND

Faster-drying hybrids mean lower fuel costs and fewer harvest slowdowns. They're your best bet for beating winter weather to the punch.

That's just what farmers all across the Corn Belt are seeing in Pioneer hybrids again this harvest **... substantially drier corn.** And more of it! So you get more net profit per acre.

It takes the world's largest corn research program to consistently deliver more profitable hybrids. But that extra Pioneer research pays off big for you each harvest... in time and money.

Maybe that's why farmers plant more Pioneer corn than any other brand in the first place. It makes sense—and dollars—to stay ahead of the game.

**The more you plant... the more you make.**

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Performance of seeds or the crop produced therefrom may be adversely affected by factors beyond our control including environmental conditions, insects and diseases. The limitation of warranty and remedy attached to each bag of Pioneer brand seed is part of the terms and conditions of the sale thereof.

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**THE 1977 OFFICIAL FFA CALENDAR COVER SCENE**

This beautiful cover picture from the 1977 Official FFA Calendar honors the heritage of vocational agriculture education with a particular look at the many places or "classrooms" which vo-ag instructors use to prepare youth for their ag careers.

# Every Chapter Should Get In Their 1977 Official FFA Calendar Order

**Individuals can order their personal calendars, too.**

The Official FFA Calendar program is designed to help local chapters get more publicity and to create greater public awareness for vo-ag and FFA. The program offers a variety of calendars—Four Styles in fact. The Home and Office Style has 12 monthly color pictures which are taken all around the United States of FFA Chapters. The Poster Style is large and just right for public places. The newest design is the Desk Style which is useful in offices and schools. The Wallet Style calendar doubles as a calling card and is popular, too. It is often used by chapters to give out to customers of citrus or other sales efforts.

Individual members can order calendars too by using the form below. Or chapters can order a Special Public Relations Package described below.

More complete details and order forms are in the newest FFA supply catalog. They are for larger orders with business firms as sponsors or for orders with the chapter's own message.

There is still time for chapters to get in orders. Calendars will be shipped even after the first of the new year. Get Official FFA Calendars hanging in the community to promote your chapter.

Please send the following:

_____ Set of All Four Styles @ $2.00 (Save 50¢) .....

_____ HOME & OFFICE @ 75¢ .....

_____ DESK @ 65¢ .....

_____ POSTER @ $1.00 .....

_____ Wallet @ 25¢ .....

_____ SPECIAL PUBLIC RELATIONS PACKAGE @ $50.00 .....

TOTAL CASH OR CHECK ENCLOSED _____

(Shipping and Postage is Included in Price)
(Va. orders add 4% state tax)

Please send the calendars I checked. I understand they have a general imprint message about FFA on them.

Name _____

Chapter _____

Address _____

City and State _____ ZIP _____

Clip & mail this Coupon to:

Official FFA Calendar Department
The National FUTURE FARMER
P.O. Box 15130
Alexandria, Va. 22309

## SPECIAL PUBLIC RELATIONS PACKAGE FOR CHAPTERS

**Chapters should get in an order for Calendars to distribute in the community, too. At the bank, fire station, post office, county court house, elevator, veterinarian's office, school library, or principal's office. Encourage your chapter to order now.**

50 Home & Office Style
25 Desk Style
15 Poster Style
25 Wallet Style

Regular $11.25 value

All for **$50.00**

Includes Shipping Costs, too!

# Bicentennial Briefs

**MIXED UP AT MATABESETT**—In Middletown, Connecticut, the Matabesett FFA Chapter mixed three versions of FFA programs (BOAC, Celebrate '76 and Food For America) together in observance of the Bicentennial year. Asked by the Lisbon, Connecticut, Historical Society to help dismantle an Eighteenth Century house and barn, the chapter accepted the task as their Building Our American Communities project. The historic old barn was removed from its site, then completely reassembled in the local vo-ag shop as part of Woodrow Wilson High's Open House Bicentennial Show. Reconstruction was similar to the original, using wooden pins in place of nails.

The agricultural open house attracted 11,000 area people, many of them elementary students. Numerous animal exhibits, similar to the livestock raised in the 1700's, were housed in the barn helping explain the history of agricultural production.

Following the open house, the Matabesett Chapter again dismantled the barn for reconstruction at a nearby site. The old barn will serve as a permanent museum of Eighteenth Century agriculture in Connecticut and be dedicated to the FFA chapter.

**SEEING THE FLAG**—"A thoughtful mind, when it sees a nation's flag, sees not the flag only, but the nation itself; and whatever may be its symbols, its insignia, he reads chiefly in the flag the government, the principles, the truths, the history which belongs to the nation that sets it forth."
Henry Ward Beecher

**A BRIEF FOOTNOTE**—With this our sixth Bicentennial Brief feature, we will conclude our tribute to 1976, the two-hundredth year of American independence. We hope the purpose of this column—to demonstrate how FFA chapters across the country observed the occasion in their own special way—has been accomplished. But more importantly we hope by our attention to such activities that the spirit of this special year will carry through into our nation's Third Century with you and the other half-million Future Farmers of America.

FFA members had the experience of dismantling a 1700 vintage barn that had been put together without nails.

# THE PULLER

a monthly magazine covering the thrill and excitement of the grand national circuit of tractor pulling in the U.S. and Canada, published by the National Tractor Pullers Association (NTPA).

The NTPA circuit includes over 60 pulls a year with purses totaling $900,000. NTPA tractors feature Super Stock models producing 700 h.p.; and exotic modified's with blown 454's, and dual hemi engines, 12 cylinder aircraft engines, and other combinations turning 30" tires at 70 mph.

Follow the excitement of agriculture's own motor sport in THE PULLER.

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Enclosed is: _____ $ 7.50 for 1 yr.
_____ $13.50 for 2 yrs.

Mail to:

**NTPA Office 104 E. Wyandot FF**
**Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351**

# Are you ready for BIG ROUND BALES?

Large round bales such as the one above is another approach to a highly mechanized and efficient system for harvesting and handling your hay crop. It promises to be one of your best labor saving haymaking systems from field through feeding.

A simple forklift attachment like the one below can be used to move bales easily.

IF you had suggested to a farmer 15 years ago that he should start producing round bales of hay that weigh 1,000 pounds each, he might have run you off his farm with a pitchfork. Most of the hay handling then was done by hand. Throwing a 1,000-pound bale around would have been a rather unpleasant task.

Today, thanks to the advent of bigger machinery with improved capabilities, the shape and size of hay bales are changing, along with a lot of other things in agriculture. A system of balers that makes large round bales is one of the fastest growing segments of the farm equipment market.

The bales range from 1,000 to 1,500 pounds and according to officials at Sperry New Holland, a producer of these new machines, "the new round bales give one man the capability of harvesting, handling and feeding his hay crop without ever touching a bale."

An extra bonus is the round baler's ability to handle residue crops such as straw and corn stalks.

These balers, in effect, roll up the windrow of hay to form a giant bale. The average bale size is 5½ feet long and 5½ feet in diameter. When the bale is formed, the farmer has the option of releasing the bale untied, or if the bale is to be transported or stored for any length of time, to wrap four to ten turns of twine around the bale before dumping it.

The greatest economics of round baling lie in the system used for feeding the hay. One approach to feeding giant bales to livestock is to leave them in the field allowing cows access to the bales where they were dropped. This eliminates the labor and fuel needed for transportation to a storage shed. It also eliminates manure hauling in the winter and allows cows to graze the grass growth which occurs after baling. Little hay spoilage occurs because of the bale's large size which protects the inside of the bale.

Many other feeding systems exist, including strip grazing round bales which allows cows access only to the bales

needed for a given period, placing bales in rows and limit feeding with an electric fence, and placing the bales in self-contained feeders, or in portable hay racks or wagons.

Before you rush out and buy one of these new machines or talk your father into it, there are some things you should keep in mind. First, you'll need a tractor with at least 50 horsepower at the PTO or larger. For best results the front wheels of your tractor should be far enough apart to straddle the windrow being picked up. This means the wheels should be 66 to 72 inches wide between tires to prevent running over the cut hay.

Hay hauling equipment is also a prerequisite if you plan on transporting the bales for storage. The most common method in use today is a tractor equipped with front-end loader (bucket or fork). However, lifting a bale above the engine hood of the tractor can be an extremely dangerous practice.

Growing in popularity is a simple forklift attachment to fit the three point hitch on the rear of a tractor. These single bale movers convert a tractor into a versatile machine for quickly moving one bale at a time for short distances.

For moving more than one bale at a time, some manufacturers have developed bale handlers for carrying four or five bales at a time. In three to four minutes the operator can pick up approximately three tons of hay and unload it in even less time in neat, closely spaced rows.

Machinery specialists from another baler manufacturer, Massey-Ferguson, say the ideal windrow for baling hay with a round baler is approximately five feet wide with vertical or boxy sides. Problems in roll-bale operation are minimized and maximum baling capacity is achieved with trim, uniform windrows. When windrows are less than five feet wide, proper driving technique is critical to eliminate barrel or oblong shaped bales. A weaving driving pattern must be maintained to alternately feed the hay from one side of the baler to the other.

The number of twine wraps to take around a completed bale is determined by the number of times it will be moved, the severeness of weather it's to be exposed to, and the length of the storing period. The more moves, the longer the storage, and the harsher the weather, the more wraps you will want to take. As a general rule, round baling requires about 40 percent less twine than conventional square baling.

If you choose to buy a round baler, there are some safety precautions you will want to note. Big round bales can be dangerous! They are not fluffy soft masses of hay—but are hard, tightly rolled masses of 1,000 to 1,500 pounds that can be dangerous if they fall or roll on you. The National Safety Council has reviewed reports of numerous instances in which vehicle operators have been killed or seriously injured when round bales have rolled down the arms of a tractor's modified front end loader when the bucket was raised to its upper limit.

Precautions include using a rear mounted three-point hitch bale handling device rather than a modified front-end loader. When it is necessary to use a front mounted loader, put ballast near the rear end of the tractor to improve both traction and stability. Remember always to shut off all power before servicing or clearing machinery and watch for bystanders when operating baler gates.

The round bale revolution will never completely eliminate the standard square bales many of you grew up with. The high initial investment of the round baler often makes the switch impossible for smaller farmers. Yet the advantages it offers, including the elimination of haymaking backaches, makes giant baling a giant step forward for many farmers.


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# POULTRY PAYS OFF IN PUERTO RICO

*By Gary Bye*

**Puerto Rico's Star Farmer is made from the same ingredients as Ameriea's 50 other star state farmers—ambition, ingenuity and hard work.**

"SI, I will buy eggs from Pedro forever," said the lady back of the counter. The English translation was a bit rough, but the message was clear. The customers of Pedro Gonzalez were pleased with his service.

Pedro is this year's Star Farmer of Puerto Rico and his poultry operation has become the model for a growing number of chicken farms near his home in San Sebastian.

One of the youngest members of a family of 15, Pedro started the poultry business when he was 16. He'd arranged through the Farmers Home Administration to receive a loan for $7,500 and working from plans he'd acquired from a nearby construction company built a laying house for 1,200 hens.

Now less than two years later, Pedro has paid off $4,500 of the loan and convinced FmHA officials that with another $6,000 he can double the laying capacity of his flock. The materials are already being assembled for the expansion.

Enough profit has also been realized from his operation for Pedro to pay for his most prized possession—and his trademark among the people he sells to—a delivery pickup that any teenage boy would envy.

Because of obvious success Pedro's chicken farm has been the center of a lot of attention according to his FFA advisor Ayala Gonzalez. "It was the first poultry farm in the area. So when others wanted to get into the business they came here to get their ideas."

The average production from the 1,200 Rhode Island Reds is 725 eggs per day. Six hundred are sold to nearby supermarkets for 96 cents per dozen. The remainder are sold to individuals or small roadside markets for $1.10 per dozen.

To make the deliveries and keep production high, Pedro's schedule must defy the normally casual pace of many islanders. Up at seven o'clock, he rushes

Pedro makes daily deliveries with the pickup he purchased with egg money.

off to school where, as a senior, he maintains a 3.0 grade point average out of a perfect 4.0. During his lunch hour he returns to the chicken farm to gather and wash eggs. Then later in the afternoon, after classes conclude, he makes his deliveries and completes the cleanup and feeding chores. Pedro has installed automatic waterers and hopes to someday install automatic feeders, although he prefers to expand his operation before investing in equipment.

Every week antibiotics are fed to the chickens through the watering system. Pedro also vaccinates every three months against newcastle disease. His health measures have resulted in a fatality rate of less than two percent per flock of hens grown out.

Records on his operation are kept on a regular basis and Pedro, who is now serving as Puerto Rico's state parliamentarian, admits that he may seek to become the first FFA National Proficiency award winner from the island.

Puerto Rico's agriculture, once the island's primary industry, has suffered in recent years from a period of rapid worker exodus and depressed prices. Now the trend is reversing with the realization of profits by innovative farmers such as Pedro. With increased government emphasis being placed on full development of the island's agricultural resources, Pedro might be considered a pattern for the growing number of FFA members in Puerto Rico.

## La Cría de Gallinas está Bien Remunerada en Puerto Rico

"Si, I will buy eggs from Pedro forever," dijo la senora detrás del mostrador. La traducción al inglés era algo rústica, pero el mensaje nos llegó muy claro. Los clientes de Pedro González están muy satisfechos del servicio que él les presta.

Pedro es el Agricultor Estrella de Puerto Rico este año y su cría de gallinas está siendo utilizada como modelo para las otras fincas que se dedican a la avicultura en los alrededores de San Sebastián, cerca a su casa.

Siendo uno de los menores de los 15 hijos de la familia González, Pedro empezó su negocio a la edad de 16 años. Por medio de un préstamo que recibió de la Oficina Central de Administración para Agricultores por un total de $7,500, y guiándose con unos planos que adquirió en una compañía de construcción, Pedro erigió un gallinero lo suficientemente grande para contener 1,200 gallinas.

En menos de dos años, Pedro ha conseguido pagar $4,500 del préstamo, y logró convencer a los funcionarios de la Oficina Central para que le prestaran otros $6,000, los que utilizará para así poder doblar la producción de huevos de su cría. Actualmente está reuniendo los materiales necesarios para la expansión.

Con las ganancias del negocio, Pedro posee hoy en día una camioneta de reparto, que podría ser la envidia de cualquier joven de su edad, y a la vez, su "marca de fábrica" para los clientes.

Debido al éxito que Pedro ha tenido con su cría, su finca ha sido el centro de interés del área, según nos dice el consejero de los Futuros Agricultores de América, Sr. Ayala González. "Fué la primera finca avícola en esta región. Una vez que los otros agricultores quisieron empezar su propio negocio, empezaron a venir a verla para conseguir ideas."

El promedio de producción diaria es de 725 huevos, de las 1,200 gallinas Rojas de raza Rhode Island. Seiscientos de ellos Pedro los vende a los supermercados vecinos a 96 centavos la docena. El resto los vende a particulares o a mercados ambulantes, a $1.10 la docena.

Para lograr hacer sus repartos puntualmente y mantener la producción a un nivel alto, el horario de Pedro es un verdadero desafío, sobre todo cuando se le compara con el paso lento de muchos de los isleños. Se levanta a las siete de la mañana, y va al colegio. Es estudiante de último año con un cómputo promedio de 3.0, siendo 4.0 la nota máxima. Durante su hora de almuerzo, él vuelve a la finca para recoger y lavar los huevos. Después del colegio, por las tardes, él hace su reparto y termina de limpiar el gallinero y les dá de comer a su cría. Pedro instaló maquinaria automática para darles de beber agua, y tiene esperanzas de poner también una distribuidora automática de granos en el gallinero. Pero por el momento, él prefiere agrandar su proyecto antes que invertir mucho dinero en equipos costosos.

Semanalmente se le da a las gallinas una serie de antibióticos a travez del sistema del agua. Pedro las vacuna cada tres meses contra la enfermedad newcastle. Estas medidas de precaución han reducido el promedio de fatalidad a un 2 porciento de la cría.

Pedro mantiene sus archivos al día. Actualmente es parlamentarista estatal, y admite que quisiera competir en el concurso de Aprovechamiento Nacional de los Futuros Agricultores de América y llegar a ser el primer isleño que lo gana.

La agricultura puertorriqueña, que fué en un tiempo la industria principal de la isla, ha sufrido mucho durante los últimos años debido a la emigración de los trabajadores hacia las ciudades, y también por la baja de precios. Actualmente existe una tendencia positiva, la cual permite que agricultores innovadores, tales como Pedro salgan bien remunerados. A travez del énfasis que el gobierno está poniendo hoy día en desarrollar aún más la agricultura en la isla, la experiencia de Pedro servirá como ejemplo para el número creciente de miembros de los Futuros Agricultores de América en Puerto Rico.

Coffee, oranges and bananas are also harvested on the Gonzalez's family farm.

Eggs are washed and placed in cartons before being delivered to markets.

# FFA in Action

## Citrus Sellers

The Solanco FFA Chapter, Quarryville, Pennsylvania, tried to add some educational experience to their citrus fruit sales this past year. The members of the junior class established a selling cooperative as part of their unit on farm coops.

The name of the cooperative was the Solanco Citrus Sales Cooperative. The purpose of the cooperative was to purchase, market and sell for, and to members, citrus fruit as a fund raising project for the Solanco FFA.

The junior class acted as a committee to write the Articles of Incorporation for the coop. A model Articles of Incorporation for a mini-coop was used from a nearby county. Following completion of the Articles of Incorporation, a Board of Directors was elected. The board consisted of one representative from each of the three freshmen sections, the sophomore class, the junior class, the senior class and the agricultural products class. The Board of Directors then elected their own officers and elected a general manager from applications submitted by the junior class members.

To become a member of the coop, a student was required to purchase one share of stock at a cost of 50 cents. All FFA members were eligible for membership, but no student was forced to join. All FFA members could sell fruit, but only coop members received patronage refunds. Any coop member, selling five or more cases of fruit, was entitled to a patronage refund of 25 cents per case. To create competition, the Board of Directors decided that a patronage refund of 35 cents per case would be given to the members of the class selling the highest number of cases per class member. A thermometer type chart was posted on the bulletin board so that each day it could be adjusted to show the average number of cases sold per class member. This chart also helped to create enthusiasm for the salesmen throughout the sales campaign.

At the completion of the sales campaign, no coop member could collect his or her patronage refund until all money was collected for the fruit sales. The coop member also had to present the original membership certificate in order to get the 50 cents returned. However, the member could collect the patronage refund without the membership certificate.

Approximately $290 in patronage refunds was returned to 71 coop members. The high salesman's refund was $15.50. Sales increased 400 cases over the previous year.

Although the cooperative helped the chapter earn more money, it also gave the chapter members a better understanding of cooperative business. The coop also enabled more members to directly earn some money from the fruit sales. These two factors helped make the Solanco Citrus Sales Cooperative a success for the Solanco FFA. (*Arba Henry, Advisor*)

Mona Rusk, president of FFA's South Central District in Kansas, hosted a weekend FFA field day on her family's ranch. Along with her Medicine Lodge Chapter, she organized a trail ride, western-style meals, livestock and land judging, ball games, pickin' and singin', a vesper service and talks by district and state FFA organization personalities.

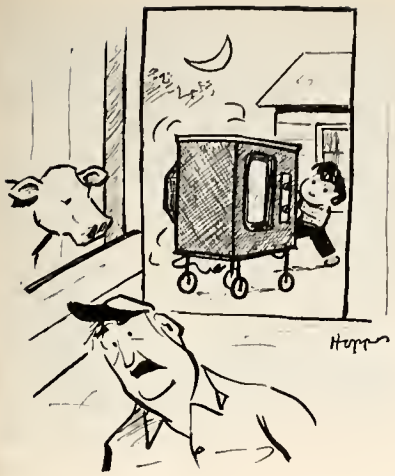
## Animal Alarm

These days the members at Westminster, California, who own animal projects on the 9-acre school farm behind the school have been sleeping soundly knowing that their projects are safe.

The agricultural department has installed a microwave alarm system which

Arkansas Governor David Pryor was on hand at state convention to make the Governor's Citation presentation to the state BOAC winner, Conway FFA. Left to right below are the Governor, Beth Lancaster, Bruce Graham, Advisor Dale Thompson, Debbie Williams and Tammy Beene on hand for the ceremony.

Queen Honeybee, representing Ohio Honey Producers, presents Gene Moore, center, his trophy for winning state fair sweepstakes in junior honey show. Gene is a Marysville FFA member and operates 40 hives on beekeeping work.



*"Okay, evening chores on your terms! What are they?"*

is turned on every night. Ten microwave units are set up all around the farm. When the alarm is turned on, it sends out microwave beams, which are sensitive to movements. When a moving object crosses its path, an alarm is sounded at the police station. The beams are positioned so that the animals in their pens will not set off the alarm.

After some very heartbreaking damage inflicted upon animal projects in the past, the members are proud to say they are the first school farm in Southern California who can be sure that their animals are safe and sound. (*Kathy Tengen, Reporter*)

## Fix Up For Farmfest

Besides their hard work at Farmfest (they provided lots of manual labor for FFA events at the Bicentennial salute to agriculture held in their community) Lake Crystal, Minnesota, FFA also led a campaign to fix up the community before the thousands of visitors came to their area. It was a natural BOAC project.

A quick survey around the community soon showed that there was a big need for many improvements. One special concern was the appearance of many of the rural mailboxes. Since some of the members had some experience at constructing mailbox supports, they decided to attack the mailbox problem.

The first thing to do was to round up materials. Chapter members brought in over 400 feet of 1¼-inch pipe to get the project started. A floor model of the swinging type mailbox support was constructed for picture taking and exhibiting downtown. The type of mailbox support publicized and constructed is one recommended by the Minnesota Highway Department and the postmaster.

"We mailed out to each rural boxholder (500) a letter urging them to improve their mailbox appearance and

*(Continued on Page 50)*

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# FFA in Action

*(Continued from Page 49)*

to "Fix up for Farmfest." We also offered to construct the recommended mailbox support at cost of materials. The letter was signed by both our local postmaster and FFA advisor. (*Norman Sieling, Advisor*)

### Poles for Profit

Early the morning of Saturday, June 5, 1976, the news media and dozens of spectators watched as bulldozers tried to fill the ever widening hole in the newly constructed Teton Dam. The word to evacuate was out and people down the valley were leaving their homes with what possessions they could carry. Some 30 minutes later a 20-foot wall of water stripped the land and carried off everything in its path. (See "The Teton Dam is Breaking" in your last issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER.*)

Fence poles were a badly needed item after the dam broke and flooded farms.

After the water had receded, the first job was to pick up the drowned bloating carcasses. Animals that were found alive were well kept until owners could be located.

Farming areas were hurt most. Most crops were lost, those salvageable would hardly pay for harvesting costs. Gravel had been washed on to fields up to two and three feet deep. In some places the soil had been washed down to the bedrock. Numerous amounts of livestock were lost. Feedlots and dairy operations were washed away.

When things started to get going again there was a great demand for fencing and corral materials. So the South Fremont Chapter in St. Anthony, Idaho, purchased a timber permit for 500 poles and they sold "as fast as we could get them down. It only took two Saturdays to get the poles out. The first Saturday everything went well and after several hours we had loaded a little over 250 poles. The second Saturday we had just arrived when our president Bill Rash walked under a falling tree and got several stitches. All in all, it was fun anyway, and it made a little money for the chapter." (*William Jay Parke, Reporter*)

### Homecoming Hoopla

The Burns, Wyoming, FFA went all out this year to support the "Bronc" homecoming festivities of their school.

To start the week out the FFA again sponsored a Score Board Sweepstakes. The three individuals to guess the closest to the correct score for both teams and the total amount of yards for Burns would receive $5, $3, and $1.

On Friday afternoon the FFA provided Burns' students with a tension releasing device with a car bash. Students were charged 50 cents for two minutes of beating on an old car with a sledge hammer.

Friday evening during the game a mounted mascot was also provided by the FFA to ride around the field after each "Brone" score.

A hayride co-sponsored with the FHA was held Saturday night as a post homecoming activity.

### The Hole Class

New Holstein, Wisconsin, FFA sponsored a soils workshop and contest. The District Soil Conservationist, Mr. Brun-

## Plan for FFA Week

FFA efforts at chapter, state and national levels in 1977 will rally around the theme "FFA—Agriculture's NEW Generation."

Kickoff point for using this theme for most local chapters will be during National FFA WEEK—February 19-26. This theme was already introduced at the past National FFA Convention.

The purpose of a national FFA theme and particularly a National FFA WEEK celebration is to provide chapters an opportunity to get additional publicity or public awareness for their vocational agriculture and FFA programs.

Every week can be an FFA WEEK and hopefully chapters will continue throughout the year to stress their involvement in agriculture, involvement in leadership training, involvement in working together cooperatively, and involvement in preparing for future careers. The WEEK comes in February around George Washington's traditional birthday celebration.

Promotional materials have been developed by *The National FUTURE FARMER* to aid chapters in conducting effective programs during the WEEK. They are available from the FFA Supply Service catalog.

FFA WEEK materials include the traditional outdoor billboards, posters, placemats, program leaflets, TV slides, seals, pocket notebooks, envelope stuffers, vinyl litterbags, bumper strips, pens, radio spots, name badges and a bulletin board kit. A new item for 1977 is a self-standing display.

Some items do not have a date or mention of FFA WEEK and they are particularly useful all year.

An order brochure and order forms were mailed to all local chapters. A How-To-Do-It and Idea Packet was included. The packet gives detailed information about the best way to use WEEK materials and get publicity. It has sections on press, radio, TV, sample scripts, and other ideas. It also includes ideas that have worked for other chapters. PLUS a clip sheet for use in newspapers and a FREE poster.

Send any requests for further information, requests if your chapter has not received ordering materials, or any ideas your chapter would like to share to: FFA WEEK Activities, *The National FUTURE FARMER,* P.O. Box 15130, Alexandria, Virginia 22309. Plan for the nationwide celebration.

This is the newest FFA promotional item available. A self-standing, easy to put up vo-ag and FFA display.

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no Zucollo, explained soil structure, texture, depth, classification and conservation practices used on area farms.

Five pits were dug on a FFA Alumni member's farm, with the first used for instruction. The remaining four pits were used as a chapter contest.

Last year's soils team helped make the contest run smoothly by acting as officials. After the pits were judged by the members, Mr. Zucollo explained the correct scoring.

The contest was also attended by Denmark FFA as part of their preparation for the state soils contest held during Wisconsin Farm Progress Days.

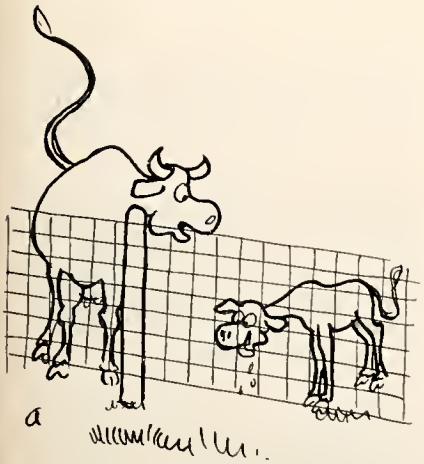
Next year the chapter plans to invite several schools from northeast Wisconsin. (*Dave Turba, Reporter*)

## Facing Fourth Graders

In September of 1975, the Rockingham, Virginia, federation was challenged to present the "Food For America" program to all fourth graders in Rockingham County.

The scope of this project was large with approximately 1,050 fourth grad-

*(Continued on Page 52)*



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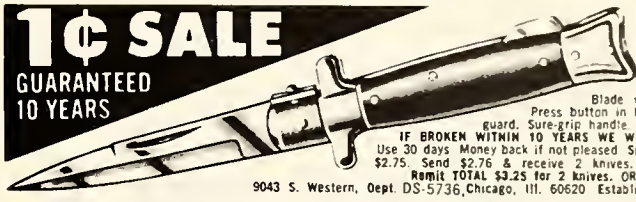

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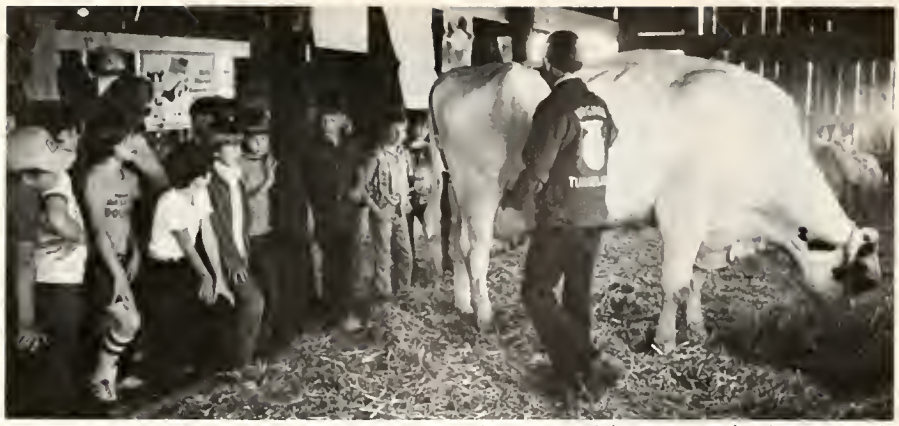

Lynn Koontz, member of the Turner Ashby Chapter took his turn at the fair grounds to explain how he got started in the dairy business with his All-American dairy cow.

## FFA in Action

*(Continued from Page 51)*

ers coming in from 17 different schools.

The first step in approving the program was a meeting with the area supervisor of vocational education. At this meeting the federation president and advisor explained the purpose of Food For America, showed the teaching aids, and told how the federation planned to conduct this program.

Following his suggestions, several federation officers met with the superintendents of the city and county schools. The officers informed the superintendents about the Food For America program.

With approval out of the way, the various chapters in the federation were assigned responsibility for the actual classroom presentation to the elementary feeder schools in their particular areas.

Chapters were encouraged to select capable discussion leaders and to rehearse their presentations which included the film "From Farm to You," discussion using visual aids, questions and coloring exercises. The coloring exercises were collected, judged and prizes were awarded.

For the field trip to a local farm all fourth graders were transported by bus to the fairgrounds.

Each chapter was assigned an exhibit to prepare and staff at the "minifair." These exhibits included horses, beef cattle, sheep, swine, machinery, poultry and dairy.

A five-minute discussion was given at each exhibit on the day of the "minifair" and curious questions were asked. (*Daniel King, Federation President*)

### A Paint Job

The Huntley, Illinois, FFA Chapter painted the vo-ag department for their BOAC project.

Block filler and the final coat of light yellow was put on the 2,600 square feet of walls. Also a design was made on the large overhead door in cooperation with the art department. Then an FFA emblem was painted on the south wall by several members.

Members also painted power equipment, tables, benches and cabinets and the shop was color coded according to OSHA rules. The total project time was 275 hours. (*Richard Drendel, Reporter*)

The emblem and FFA logo were part of a redecoration project in the school.

### Freshmen Scavengers

The Sandpoint, Idaho, FFA Chapter recently held their harvest auction. This is an annual event where local farmers and merchants donate produce and merchandise to the chapter to be auctioned off to the general public.

The freshmen usually gather the donations from the merchants. If they bring in enough, they can pay for their jackets. "This year we made $871.35. We think this is quite a profit and are proud of ourselves." (*Tina Hamacher, Reporter*)


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# The Big E

*(Continued from Page 34)*

An example is the Natural Resources contest, a new area of competition added at The Big E last year. Four-man teams match their skills and strength at hands-on activities such as log-rolling, buck-sawing, and chain saw trouble shooting. The teams are also tested in wildlife identification, forestry plant identification and Christmas tree grading. To make sure all of the skill tests weren't just luck, each of the students is given a multiple choice quiz to test his knowledge.

"We set up this new contest to be the best test of natural resources skills and knowledge possible," says contest superintendent Steve Johnson. "We hope some day a contest similar to this will be adapted at the national level."

Following the completion of the contests (including tractor driving, ornamental horticulture, poultry judging, poultry products judging, natural resources, livestock judging, dairy judging, dairy showmanship, dairy products judging and agricultural mechanics in both electricity and small gas engines) students congregate for the Star Farmer pageant. With flags waving and the band blaring, one FFA member (this year Dale Siegfried from Kutztown, Pennsylvania) is tapped as the outstanding FFA member for the region.

But FFA at The Big E is more than a one-day affair. Members participate in a variety of ways throughout the 12-day gathering. Many of their activities center around the Farm-A-Rama Exhibit which houses numerous agricultural displays. The exhibit is constructed in a Food For America style with farm animals displayed to tell the story of agriculture. The exhibit also houses the FFA's float which makes daily appearances in an afternoon parade that winds its way throughout the fairgrounds.

"Our Farm-A-Rama exhibit has probably been the most popular building on the grounds in the last few years," notes Peter Johnson, FFA Executive Secretary in Massachusetts and FFA Coordinator for the building.

Highlighting the displays at Farm-A-Rama this year for young and old alike was a large incubator. Built in the shape of a giant egg, crowds would gather around the transparent display to "ooh" and "aah" as they watched the chicks emerge from their shells. It was not unusual to hear a cheer go up as a tiny bird, with one last surge of effort, would finally free itself from its shell.

To man the Farm-A-Rama exhibit, representatives from each state are selected for the 15-man (and woman) work crew. Living right at the Farm-A-Rama building for two weeks they care for the animals, register FFA members at the information booth, and from time to time reunite a lost child with his or her mother.

A drawing card at Farm-A-Rama is exhibits featuring audience participation. The horticulture exhibit is an excellent example. Each year FFA chapters from throughout New England take turns manning the booth and giving demonstrations for the crowd. Using a microphone to speak to the people who gather around, an FFA emcee explains the steps for a particular skill, such as making a corsage. At the end of the demonstration the FFA member commonly presents the finished product to someone in the crowd celebrating a birthday or other special day.

The crowning touch of FFA Day at The Big E is the awards banquet which attracts almost all of the 400 participants from the day's activities. Opening FFA ceremonies are presented by representative officers from each of the state associations. A National FFA Officer usually keynotes the affair. To climax the evening, winning teams are announced and certificates of their placings are presented.

"Many of the students taking part in these activities are second or third generation participants at The Big E," says Alan Munson, Youth Director at The Big E, as he reflects on the history of the show. "It's part of New England tradition because The Big E represents the best of New England's small but impressive agricultural industry." The increased FFA participation at The Big E says a lot for that industry's future.

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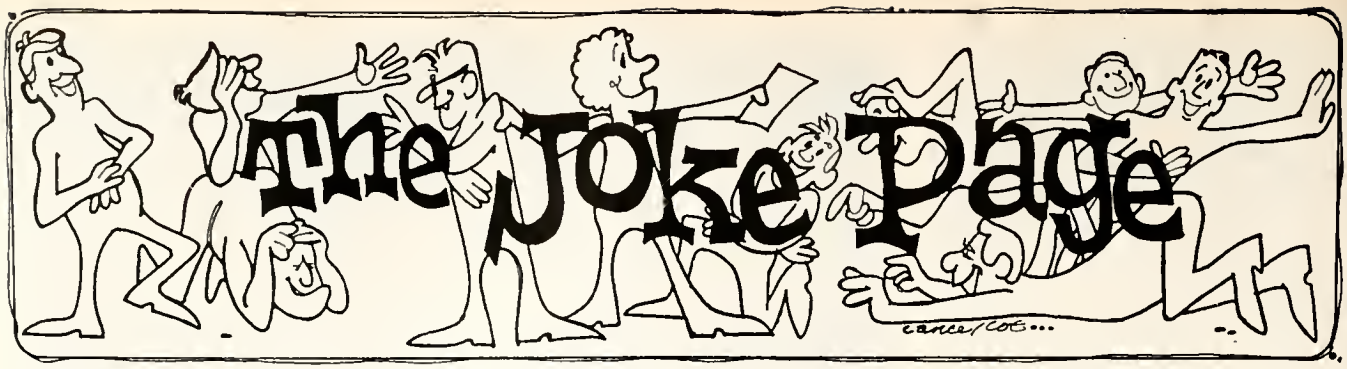



Jerry: *"What do you get when you cross an elephant with a groundhog?"*

Dennis: *"I don't know, but you would have big holes in your backyard."*

Ronald Monsen
*Estherville, Iowa*

*"How do you like this hat?"* the wife asked, as she held up the most expensive hat available on her head.

*"Fine,"* said the smart husband. *"I like the nice middle-aged look it gives."*

Bobbie Mae Cooley
*Bowen, Illinois*

Overheard at a dentist's office, *"I read somewhere that George Washington had false teeth made out of wood."*

*"Yes, and the last time he took a toothpaste test, he had 23 percent fewer knotholes."*

Ruth Moore
*Liberty, Kentucky*

*"Mother, why aren't there any pictures of angels with whiskers?"*

*"Because, dear, men get in by a very close shave."*

Kathy Ingebrigtsen
*Fridley, Minnesota*

Question: *"Why did the turtle cross the road?"*

Answer: *"To get to the shell station."*

Lynn Pennington
*Hanover, Indiana*

Steve: *"I see spots in my eyes."*

Bruce: *"Did you see a doctor?"*

Steve: *"No, just spots."*

Shawn Oldham
*East View, Kentucky*

First hunter: *"When I go duck hunting, I shoot them so high up, they spoil before they hit the ground."*

Second hunter: *"Yeah, I used to have that problem, now I just add a little salt to my shells!"*

Bill Kiger
*Spraggs, Pennsylvania*

First prize for sculpture in a modern art show went to a curiously shaped piece bearing this sign: 'The sculptress made this entirely with her tongue.'

Someone questioned the exhibitor, *"Who is this talented sculptress?"*

*"My cow, that's her salt block,"* he answered.

Tina Belote
*Vilania, Arkansas*

Roses are red, violets are blue, orchids are $7.50, would dandelions do?

Mark Mayton
*Fouke, Arkansas*

Game warden: *"Say, you're hunting with last year's license."*

Hunter: *"That's okay, I'm only shooting at the ones I missed last year."*

Mike Plumley
*Riverview, Florida*

A dictator of a small country was bitterly disappointed that nobody would use the newly issued postage stamps bearing his portrait. He questioned a postmaster, who explained that the stamps weren't sticking. Seizing one, the dictator licked it and affixed it to an envelope.

*"Look,"* he cried, *"it sticks perfectly."*

The postmaster faltered a bit, then explained, *"Sir, the truth is the people have been spitting on the wrong side."*

Mike Heppner
*Plentywood, Montana*

John: *"Do you know how to make a cigarette lighter?"*

Ben: *"No, I don't."*

John: *"Take all the tobacco out."*

Kevin Shaulk
*Bridgewater, Virginia*

Father: *"Remember, if you want to learn something the right way you have to start at the bottom."*

Son: *"But Dad, I want to learn how to swim."*

Mark Fitzsimmons
*Good Thunder, Minnesota*

A small boy lowered his head at the dinner table one night and announced to his parents that there was to be a small P.T.A. meeting the next day.

*"Well, if it's just a small one, do you think I ought to go?"* asked his mother.

*"I'm afraid so,"* replied the boy, *"it's just you, me and the principal."*

Susan Keith
*Centerville, Ohio*

Boy selling lemonade: *"Would you mind going easy on the straw, mister? It's the only one we have."*

Arnie Bauer
*Montgomery, Minnesota*

Jeff: *"If a young chicken is called a pullet, then what is an old chicken called?"*

Gary: *"A push-it."*

Jeff Olson
*Postville, Iowa*

Q: What modern inventions have helped people to rise in the world?

A: Elevators and alarm clocks.

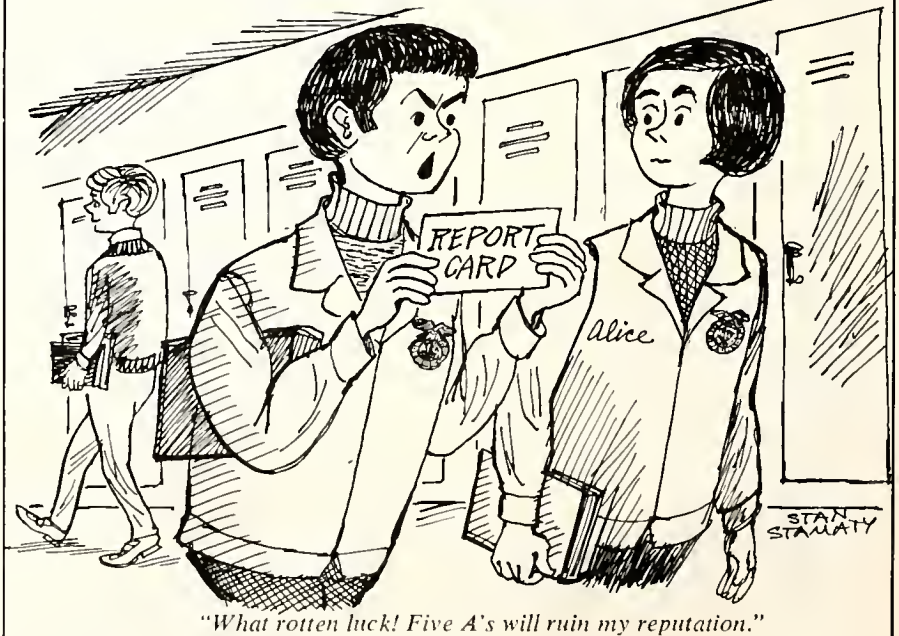
Steven McElroy
*Protage, Wisconsin*

One day a man was ordering dinner in a restaurant. He asked the waitress if she had frog legs?

She answered: *"No, it's just my arthritis."*

Keith Hightower
*Anniston, Alabama*

**Charlie, the Greenhand**




*"What rotten luck! Five A's will ruin my reputation."*



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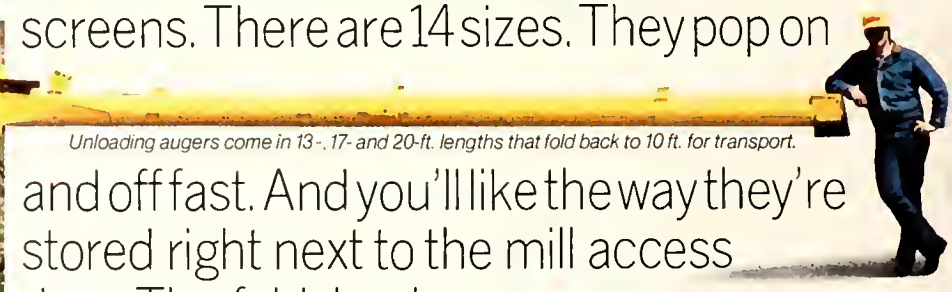
*Unloading augers come in 13-, 17- and 20-ft. lengths that fold back to 10 ft. for transport.*

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